

COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE

#1357

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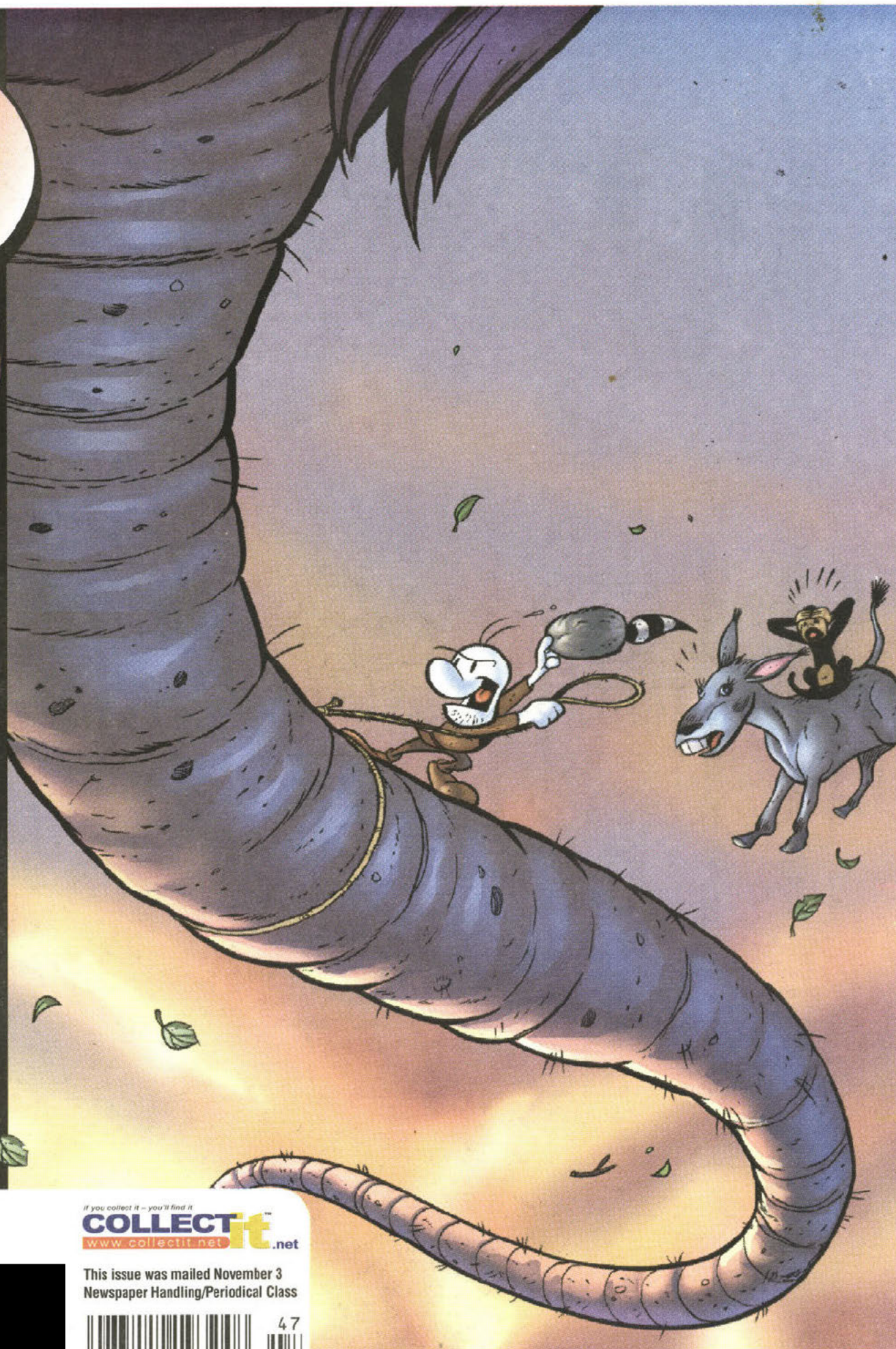


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Who's The Favorite Inker of the Century? See Page 24



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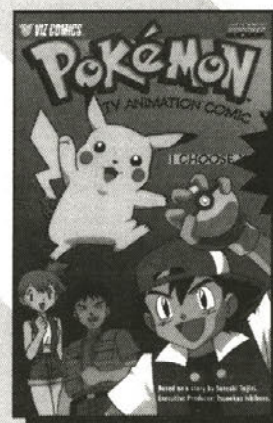
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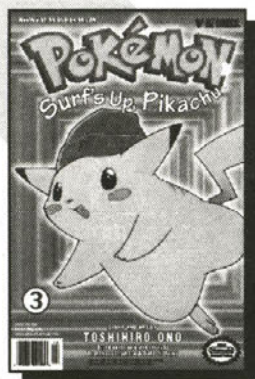
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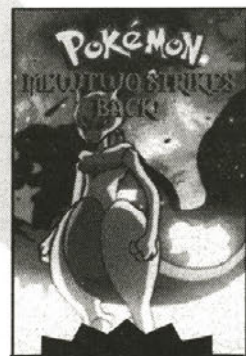


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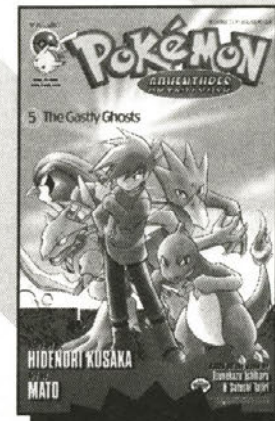
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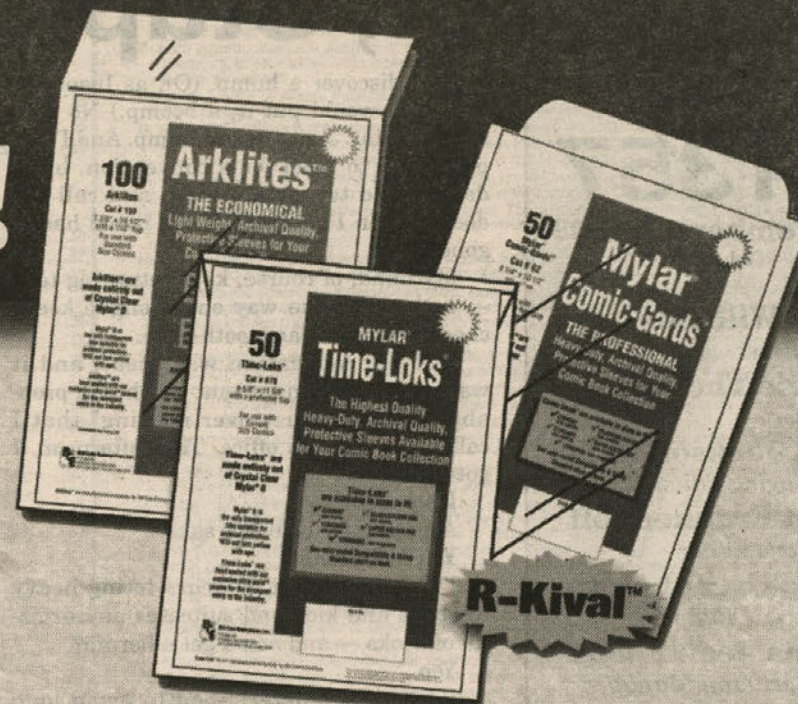
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16-20	11.00	12.75	13.50	15.75	25.50	48.75
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COMICS
BUYER'S
GUIDE

#1357

November 19, 1999

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Owwwwww! —
or, Stupid, stupid long boxes

So I discover a bump. (Or, as Inspector Clouseau would put it, a boomp.) No pain at that point. Just a weird bump. And I was preparing to head for a convention, but I determined to pay attention and call the doctor when I got back, if the bump hadn't gone away.

My mind, of course, kept returning to it — rather like the way one's tongue keeps checking out a sharp tooth-edge.

But the convention was great, and it was with a certain amount of "oh, I'm probably making a fuss over nothing" that I called the doctor's office. That afternoon, I got the news.

It's a what?

A hernia, for heaven's sake?

You're kidding!

I've gone almost 57 years toting heavy totebags and kids and suitcases and armfuls of books — and now I get a hernia?

Yep.

I'd long ago determined to avoid long



Editorial
by
Maggie
Thompson

boxes whenever possible. Most of the comics boxes I own are short boxes. But, you see, there was this article on Dell *Four-Color* comics I wanted to do, and I wanted to get at them to scan them. So I pulled and lifted and —

Stupid, stupid long boxes.

So Nov. 11, I get the damage repaired. And, in the meantime, I get in touch with a storage supplies source so's to finish the transfer from long to short boxes.

Michael Naiman of the American Association of Comicbook Collectors called this

week to chat about the *Four-Color* article in #1354, and I told him what had happened. Michael said, "We've come to a point in our evolution when we can no longer carry long boxes." Right you are, Michael.

I try to use this spot to alert *CBG*'s readers to the potential hazards in our field. You know the sort of thing: Be sure you're insured. Maintain a list of what you have in your collection. Bag your comics. So here's the latest:

WARNING!

Use long boxes for T-shirt storage. Use long boxes to carry videotapes. Use long boxes to store your blister-packed action figures.

But *don't* use long boxes to store your comic books. Not if you intend to lift those boxes at any point.

Stupid, stupid long boxes.

Ow.

This week in

COMICS
BUYER'S
GUIDE

On the cover



Eight years ago, Jeff Smith began self-publishing the fantasy adventures of a trio of white, large-nosed, little characters who had stumbled into a wooded valley. Now, after several adventures (chronicled in 37 issues and six collections), the Bone cousins have a toy line and are poised to expand into an animated feature. Smith talks about the movie, discusses the series' current hiatus, and gives readers a taste of one of two mini-series, *Stupid, Stupid Rat Tails: The Adventures of Big Johnson Bone*.

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News includes: Image announces its plans for 2000; *Spider-Man Unlimited* and *Big Guy & Rusty* go on hiatus; Liefeld and Churchill's *X-Men* plans make their way to Awesome; DC's female characters will have their own series; Chewbacca is honored; Wolverine and Shi will team up; Bob Layton and David Michelinie will return to *Iron Man*; Marnin Rosenberg has 1,800 Bethlehem Collection comics for sale; Chaos finishes off several characters at year's end; and Pacific Comic Exchange acquires The Pacific Coast Collection6 and elsewhere

But I Digress by Peter David 58

Peter vill pump (whap!) you up.

Law Is a Ass by Bob Ingersoll 55

Is Gotham City's situation legal?

Point of View by Mark Evanier 44

Pay attention! It's time for The Speech.

Tony's Tips by Tony Isabella 28

Tony does a speedy review of *The Golden Age Flash Archives*.

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Mid-Ohio-Con
schedule update

Golden Age Green Lantern creator Martin Nodell has announced that he and his wife Carrie will attend this year's Mid-Ohio-Con, Nov. 27 and 28 in Columbus, Ohio.

For more information on Mid-Ohio-Con, contact organizer Roger Price at (419) 526-1427.

Get reviewed!

Items for *Comics Guide* should be sent to Editor Maggie Thompson.

Items for *Faraway Looks* should be sent to Managing Editor John Jackson Miller.

For the *Anime/Manga Shelf*, send items to Associate Editor Joyce Greenholdt.

To participate in *Comics in Your Future*, contact Projects Editor Brent Frankenhoff for an invitation.

Trade paperbacks for the *Comics Bookshelf* can be sent to Mike Keeney, Comic Corner, 2806-A S. Memorial Pkwy., Huntsville, AL 35801.

Please note: Due to the volume of material received, no review can be guaranteed.

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NOVEMBER ISSUE
ON SALE NOW!

PREVIEWS



November has arrived, so get the turkey cooked and ready because *PREVIEWS* is here to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday with you, comic book style! On the front cover: Erik Larsen is at it again in, *Image's Savage Dragon: Gang War*. Around back: Everyone's favorite Wookiee sidekick, Chewbacca is now in his own comic, *Dark Horse's Chewbacca #1*.

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PREMIER

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Also:

- Open DC/Vertigo's *Deadenders* and enter a post-apocalyptic world without hope, a world where the only chance for salvation rests with an unrepentant delinquent!
- Dive beneath the waves with *Aspen Matthews* as secrets are revealed in *Image and Top Cow's Faithom #0!*
- *Image* and *Todd McFarlane* take you on a revenge-filled journey of action and terror with *The Crow TP Volume 1: Vengeance!*
- *Joe Quesada* takes the reins of ol' *Shellhead*, as Marvel's Armored Avenger gets a new writer in *Iron Man #26!*
- *Wizard* rings in the new century with the scoop on the latest and greatest in *Wizard #101!*

COMICS

Mike Allred launches a new publishing venture with *AAA Pop Comics' The Atomicks!* Big-time adventure with an emphasis on character-driven stories—it's exactly what you're looking for!

Also:

- One lone survivor explores the newborn universe after the horror of Armageddon, in *Chaos! Comics' daring, Aftermath #1.*
- Family reunion, family tragedy, and family bonding: all in *Fantagraphics' Acme Novelty Library #14!*
- *Harris Comics* presents the ultimate rematch between comics' reigning bad girls, a fight where only one will survive, in *Vampirella/Lady Death: The Revenge #1!*
- This is it! Six years of romance come to a conclusion as *Kyoko* and *Godai* exchange vows in the final issue of *Viz Comics' Maison Ikkoku Part 9 #10*

MAGAZINES

Find out the real stories behind the stories for *Buffy* and the new spin-off, *Angel*, in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer Official Magazine #7*. Available in a *PREVIEWS Exclusive Variant Edition* and a *Newsstand Edition*.

Also:

- *Comics Scene 2000* is back for the new Millennium with interviews, coverage of new movies, TV versions of comic hits, and much more!
- *The Blair Witch Project's* Heather Donahue bares her soul for the new issue of *Femme Fatale Volume 8 #12* from *Cinefantastique!*
- Comic book creators listen up! *Blue Line's Sketch Magazine* offers valuable information for comic book creators, new or established.

APPAREL

Time to play dress-up! Get decked out in "Tomb-wear," thanks to a selection of *Tomb Raider* sweatshirts and t-shirts bearing images of the inimitable *Lara Croft!*

MERCHANDISE

Barbarians At the Gates! *Diamond Select* unleashes a berserker horse, as *Frazetta Series 2* and *Bisley's Eden* figure hack and slash through *PREVIEWS!*

Also:

- You can have *Ozzy Osbourne* in your own living room, (sort of) with this personally autographed *Ozzy Osbourne 7-Inch Figurine!* Limited to 5,000, so get yours soon!
- *Eternal Toys* and *Diamond Select* introduce...*Purgatori*—the 12" action figure!
- Get into the action! *Kid Action* joins the Captain, with a *Speed Racer* costume, thanks to the folks at *Diamond Select!*

FEATURES

In a *PREVIEWS* interview, *Mike Allred* talks about his latest and greatest achievement, as he enters the world of self-publishing with *AAA Pop*

Comics!

Also:

- What do you do on the day after the end of the world? You start something new! *Brian Pulido* offers some tantalizing hints about the *Chaos!* world to come in an exclusive interview!



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Image announces plans for 2000

By Matt Brady

With the New Year still a couple of months away, new Image Publisher Jim Valentino recently released a listing of the highlights of Image's publishing schedule for the first half of 2000, including such formerly self-published series as *Astounding Space Thrills* and *Wahoo Morris* moving to Image, as well as new titles from established Image studios and milestone issues of both *Savage Dragon* and *Spawn*. Highlights in Image's publishing plan for next year look like this:

January:

Soul Saga (Top Cow) by Christian Lichtner and Stephen Platt
Jinn (Avalon Studios) by J. Cameron and Gabriel Rearte
F-5 Preview by Tony Daniel

Tin Can Man by Jim Thornton and Dietrich Smith
Kabuki: Scarab Artbook by David Mack
Mr. Monster's Gal Friday, *Kelly* by Michael T. Gilbert
Pakkins' Land Collected Edition Vol. 1 by Gary and Rhoda Shipman

February:

Aria Collected Edition (Artis Studios) by Brian Holguin and Jay Anacleto
Aria/Angela (Artis/McFarlane) by Holguin and Anacleto
Crow Magazine (McFarlane)
Eve: Proto Mecha by Christian Lichtner
Kin by Gary Frank
Darkminds trade paperback (Dreamwave Studios) by Pat Lee and Adrian Tsang
Warlands Collected Edition Vol. 1 (Dreamwave) by Tsang and Lee
Darkminds 2 (new series, Dreamwave) by Lee and Tsang
Saint Angel Preview (Hyperwerks) by Karl Altstaetter and Robert Napton

March:

Gear Station by Dan Fraga
Rumble Girls by Lea Hernandez
Echo (Dreamwave)
Avatar by Al Bigley
Iron Wings by Jay Juch
Wahoo Morris by Craig Tallefer
Violent Messiahs by William O'Neill and Joshua Dysart
Hawkshaws by Dietrich Smith
Magdalena (Top Cow) by Joe Benitez and Marcia Chen
Young Olympians by Matt Broome-Digital Broome Studio
Primal Instinct Preview by Brett Booth and Jess Ruffner

April:

J.U.D.G.E. by Greg Horn (with extensive computer imagery)
Skinnners by Matt Broome-Digital Broome studios (with extensive computer-aided 3-D art)

Powers by Brian Bendis (first full-color super-hero work)
Pakkins Land (new series) by Gary and Rhoda Shipman
Astounding Space Thrills by Steve Conley (in color)
Geeksville by Rich Koslowski and Gary Sassaman (combining *The 3 Geeks* and *Innocent Bystander*)
Go-Girl by Trina Robbins and Anne Timmons
F-5 by Tony Daniel
The Keeper (Liar Comics) by Steve Fitchow and Sharon Scott
Boilerplate by Larry Young and Paul Guinan
Demonlayer (second series) by Marat Mychael
Shidima (Dreamwave)
Dark Angel by Asamiya

May:

The Red Star by Chris Gossett
An Image-Top Cow crossover set in the Dark Ages
Savage Dragon #75

June:

Major event (more details to come)
Vagabond (Digital Broome)
Gladiator (Top Cow) by Matt Hawkins
Dreamwave-Top Cow crossover, most likely *Darkminds* and *Witchblade*
Chassis Collected Edition Vol. 1 by Joshua Dysart and William O'Neill
Kabuki Sourcebook by David Mack

July:

Sexbot (Top Cow) by David Finch and David Wohl
Sirens: Masks by J. Torres
The Bad by Larry Young and John Heebink
Primal Instinct by Booth and Ruffner
Spawn #100 by McFarlane, Holguin, and Greg Capullo

Spider-Man Unlimited, Big Guy & Rusty fall in battle against Pokémon

By Matt Brady

In a move to counter Kids WB's Saturday morning animation ratings lead, Fox Kids has altered its Saturday morning lineup, pitting extra episodes of the *Pokémon*-esque *Digimon: Digital Monsters* and *Monster Rancher* against WB's seemingly unstoppable *Pokémon*-carried programming block. The new schedule, which went into effect Oct. 30, was a good-news-bad-news situation for comics fans, as it dropped both *Spider-Man Unlimited* and *Big Guy & Rusty the Boy Robot* from their respective slots, while adding *The Avengers* at 11:30 a.m. ET.

The new Saturday morning schedule is (all times Eastern):

8 a.m. *Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century*
8:30 a.m. *Monster Rancher*
9 a.m. *Digimon: Digital Monsters*
9:30 a.m. *Xyber 9: New Dawn*
10 a.m. *Monster Rancher*
10:30 a.m. *Digimon: Digital Monsters*
11 a.m. *Beast Machines*
11:30 a.m. *The Avengers*

The schedule changes also apply to Fox Kids weekday programming, with the new schedule looking like this (again, all times Eastern):

3 p.m. *Monster Rancher*
3:30 p.m. *Beast Wars*
4 p.m. *Digimon: Digital Monsters*
4:30 p.m. *Power Rangers Lost Galaxy*

The schedule changes came abruptly, as many Fox Kids affiliates were showing commercials for both *Spider-Man Unlimited* and *The Avengers* the week of Oct. 24-29.

While admitting that the schedule changes were made to remain competitive in the more and more anime-driven Saturday morning animation market, sources at Fox Kids assured that both *Spider-Man Unlimited* and *Big Guy & Rusty* will return to the Saturday-morning lineup in the near future, most likely in February when Fox Kids premieres two new series, *NASCAR Racers* and *Power Rangers: Lightspeed Rescue*. Additionally, *Digimon* has seen a 25%

increase in viewers since its mid-August debut, which is another reason for additional episodes to be added to the Saturday schedule, according to an unnamed Fox spokesperson. *Digimon*'s success as a series will soon move into *Digimon* merchandise, as Fox Kids has lined up numerous licensees to produce *Digimon* products.

Out of the total 26 *Big Guy & Rusty* episodes being produced, only six have aired, while three of the 13 *Spider-Man Unlimited* episodes have aired.

The episode of *Monster Rancher* that aired Oct. 16 had a 3.4 rating and 16 share among children 2-11 and a 3.9 rating and 17 share among children 6-11.

The episode of *Spider-Man Unlimited* that aired Oct. 16 had numbers of 3.0/11 for 2-11 and 2.8/10 for 6-11. The series wasn't faring poorly; the decision was more of a case of Fox Kids jumping on the anime bandwagon.

— Rob Allstetter contributed to this report.

Valentino did caution, "The nature of Image nearly guarantees that things will change. This is the best information I have at this time."

As for the rest of the company's 2000 plans, Valentino added, "What's coming for the rest of the year? More surprises, more innovations, more new and superstar talent, and the single most diverse comics line in comics history."

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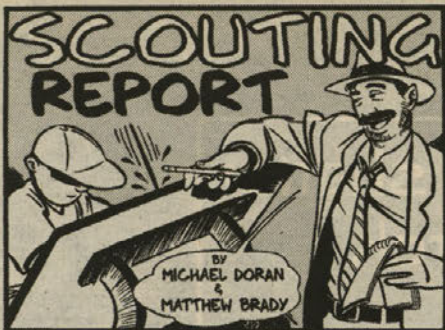
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STARDATE: NOVEMBER 1999.



BY MICHAEL DORAN & MATTHEW BRADY

Liefeld, Churchill take ex-X-ideas to Awesome. Awesome Entertainment's Rob Liefeld and Ian Churchill reported that they are currently solidifying plans for a new mini-series they hope will reshape the Awesome universe and they'll be looking for inspiration in ideas and creations they originally developed for a group of Marvel's X-titles.

As reported previously, Liefeld held discussions with Marvel Editor Jason Liebig in the last month to become head plotter and creative consultant to several of Liebig's titles, including *X-Force* and *Generation X*, though ultimately Liebig decided to turn elsewhere.

Entitled *Extreme Forces*, the new Awesome April-shipping bi-weekly mini-series will serve as a catalyst for an "all-new series of titles" that will roll out from Awesome over the course of next year.

Explained Liefeld, "Because the idea was to get away from the familiar trappings of the X-universe, so much of the characters and situations that were designed by us were new and unrelated to the rest of the X-universe that they will not be recognized as X-knockoffs but, hopefully, appreciated as exciting new additions to the Awesome universe. *Extreme Forces* will feature art by Ian and myself, and the story is centered on a series of new threats that have surfaced and threaten to alter reality in the Awesome universe."

Involving time travelers from the future who arrive in the present, intent on resetting time, the limited series will introduce several new characters, "re-align" the Awesome universe, and "completely alter Youngblood," paving the way for a new *Youngblood* series next summer. "Yes, we'll continue to pursue *Youngblood* until we find the right combination; just as there will always be a *JLA*, *Avengers*, and *Wildcats*, there will always be a *Youngblood*."

Liefeld concluded, "Ian and I are looking forward to tackling *Extreme Forces*, as it will be a story of considerable scope and power."



DC's women shine. If the DC universe has a glass ceiling, writer Fabian Nicieza will shatter it in January in *Created Equal*, a two-is-

sue prestige format Elseworlds project illustrated by Kevin Maguire. According to Nicieza, the story can be boiled down to the simple sound bite: "World without men."

"Each issue is a self-contained story taking place several years apart," he explained. "In Book One, we see the surviving females — both human and meta-human alike — coping with the horrendous tragedy of the mysterious plague that killed all (well, almost all) men."

"In Book Two, set 15 years later, we see how the society has remade itself as a result of a unique birthing program."

Though keeping the details close to his chest, Nicieza revealed the story features Wonder Woman, Lois Lane, a female Hawk, and Barbara Gordon, among others, but its main focus is really a triangle among Wonder Woman, Lois, and "an unnamed third party," Nicieza said.



Chewbacca's future planned. [Spoiler Warning: The following contains advance information on *Star Wars: Vector Prime* and Dark Horse's *Chewbacca* mini-series.] Although Chewbacca may have met his demise in the recent *Star Wars: Vector Prime* novel by R.A. Salvatore, the Wookiee will live on in Dark Horse's four-issue *Chewbacca* mini-series beginning in January. While the mini-series

was announced this summer, Dark Horse has recently revealed how it will fit in with the developments of *Vector Prime*.

According to Dark Horse sources, the mini-series' framing device will feature C-3PO and R2-D2 creating a memorial for Chewbacca. In doing so, they will talk to friends and enemies of Chewie who have appeared in *Star Wars* comics, novels, and movies including his father, Attichituk, his wife Mallatobuck, Luke Skywalker, and of course, Han Solo. The mini-series is written by Darko Marcan (*Star Wars: Vader's Quest*), while each interview will be drawn by a separate artist, including: Brent Anderson, Igor Kordey, Jan Duursema, Dave Gibbons, Dusty Abel, Martin Ege-land, John Nadeau, Kilian Plunkett, Rafael Kayanan, and Eddy Biukovic. Covers for all four issues will be provided by Sean Phillips.

It is reported that the mini-series will be more upbeat than maudlin: a celebration of Chewie's life rather than a mournful wake.

Tucci and Smith take on Wolverine and Shi. Although he may have been out of the comics scene for a while, Billy Tucci plans a comeback in spring with a *Wolverine/Shi* special, (Continues on Page 10)



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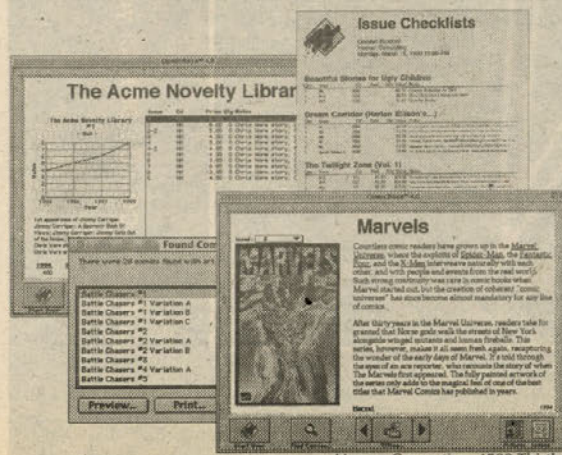
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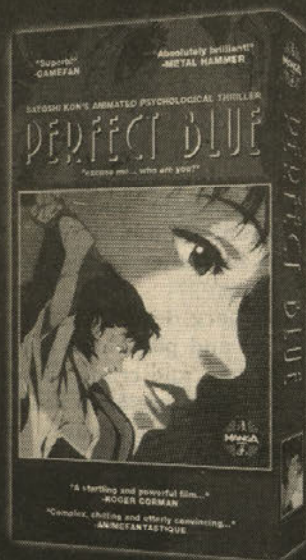
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SCOUTING

(From Page 8)

co-written by **Beau Smith** and pencilled by **Tucci**. While the story is still in its early stages, Tucci said that a large part of the story will take place in Japan, a location with close ties for both characters. Ever seeking the larger metaphor, Tucci also said that he hoped the special will stand for the current state of the comics industry, "but with non-stop, knockdown, drag-out action. It'll be really intense and profound with a little bit of Hemingway thrown in."

Iron Man's Iron Men return. *Iron Man* veterans **Bob Layton** and **David Michelinie** recently confirmed that they will return to *Iron Man* for an upcoming four-issue story, co-plotted by both creators, scripted by Michelinie, and pencilled and inked by Layton. According to Layton, the story will clarify and redefine the relationship between Tony Stark and James Rhodes. "Although this relationship has been strained over the years, torn and tested through countless physical and emotional trials, it nonetheless retains its rock-solid foundation of mutual respect and trust," Layton said. "It's an anchor to reality for both men, who believe it to be worth any cost or sacrifice, as the readers will witness, as the story progresses."

The story will also feature the return

of several key *Iron Man* foes, including long-time nemeses **Justin Hammer** and **Spymaster**.

While the story has yet to be officially scheduled in the series, it will most likely follow the four-issue story written by **Joe Quesada**, slated to run in *Iron Man* #26-29. While the return is wonderful news for fans of the duo's version of *Iron Man*, Layton was quick to point out that it isn't a herald of their return to the series full-time. Yet.

"My understanding, as I've been told by Editor **Bobbie Chase**, is that the series will be handled in story arcs by various creators," Layton said. "However, if she were to ask David and me to stay on, we would most likely agree. We'd like nothing better than to take another shot at continuing *Iron Man*'s legacy for a few years, especially if we could keep [current penciller] **Sean Chen** on board."



1,800 Bethlehem Collection comics found

Comics dealer **Marnin Rosenberg** of **Collectors Assemble!** in Great Neck, N.Y., has announced the acquisition of approximately 1,800 comics from the **Bethlehem Collection**. "About eight years ago, I met a wonderful gentleman at a comics convention in New York City," Rosenberg said, "who had some Atlas comics at his booth. At that time, being as much a collector as a dealer, he told me he had a stash of comics at home which he planned to sell someday."

Over the next eight years, the collector sent Rosenberg small

groups of comics from the Bethlehem Collection, and the two developed a friendship. "I would bug him every few months about his large group of comics," Rosenberg added. "He promised he would give me first shot at his stash and he kept his word."

Rosenberg described the lot as containing both pre- and post-Code horror, science-fiction, fantasy, war, and crime comics from the 1950s. "About 80-85% are Very Fine or better and consist of many rare treasures from the era, which, if found at all, are usually discovered in lower grades," he said. "It is the first time that this group of Bethlehem comics are being made available to the general public."

Rosenberg's plans are to offer the comics for sale near the end of November on his website at www.comiccollectors.net.



Among the title included in the collection were *Mister Mystery* #10 (above) and *Weird Tales of the Future* #8 (upper right).



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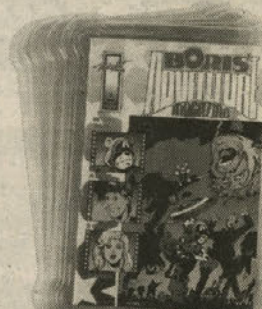
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JJM: Managing Editor John Jackson Miller

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The best way to get in touch with us is by e-mail, fax, mail, and phone (in that order).

Shirley Meech

1336 Brampton Rd.

Los Angeles, CA 90041

Always enjoy *CBG*, but sure wish you could print *Wolff and Byrd* in a larger size. Or else send *The Atom* over to read all that tiny lettering for me!

Lana Raymond

27 Lark Ave.

White Plains, NY 10607

In this most bewitching of seasons, two germane inquiries ...

Will a series of graphic novels be spawned from the Sci-Fi Channel drama *Poltergeist: The Legacy*? The concept of a centuries-old secret society at war with the supernatural seems perfectly fitted to such a medium.

What is the probability of any forthcoming *X-Files* comics — from anyone?

[Good questions — to which we don't have answers at the moment.]

Jack Abramowitz

Regarding *The Great Society Comic Book* discussion in *CBG* #1353: I bought my copy of *GS* #1 at Roger's Time Machine in Manhattan (great store). I don't recall what I actually paid, but it was marked \$19. It was in excellent shape except for one hole inexplicably punched through the cardboard cover. I asked how they determine prices for items not in the guide and I was told that there is a separate price guide for undergrounds. Hope this helps.

Next item up for bid: On page 70 of *CBG* #1354, there is a picture of *Shadow Comics* #2 (1940). On the cover there is a blurb of "Iron Munro." Who was Iron Munro? Other than the name, is there any connection to the Young All-Star of the same name?

Finally, let me add my voice to those who would support a *Mr. Silver Age* collection, as well as a second *B.I.D.* volume (and a *Law Is a Ass* collection, as well).

We could also use more articles from the extremely talented and entertaining Jack Abramowitz. We haven't seen much from him lately, and I'm sure he has plenty to contribute. I, for one, would religiously support a weekly Jack Abramowitz column! (I fully expect you to cut this paragraph. That's OK.)

[The one-hole punch in the cover indicates exactly what it does on some LP record jackets: You have a remaindered copy. Weirdly, yes, Jay Kennedy did list #1 (though not #2) in his *The Official Underground and Newwave Comix Price Guide* in 1982. It's weird because the comic book was neither underground nor newwave. At any rate, in 1982, Kennedy put it at \$10 in Mint.

Iron Munro (a pulp character, I assume) was also known as *The Astounding Man* and he appeared in #1-7, #11, and Vol. 2 #1 (#13) of *Street and Smith's The Shadow Comics* in 1940 and 1941. No connection to the Young All-Star guy — though, come to think of it, DC was a *Street and Smith Shadow* licensee.]

Lon Levy

55 N. Martine Ave.

Fanwood, NJ 07023

Regarding John Miller's note on "Can There Be Too Many Comic Books?" in *Faraway Looks* in *CBG* #1353 and your question as to whether anybody else is experiencing this (space problems and a collection becoming more of a burden than a blessing), I can only assume that you are so busy helping to put together *CBG* on a weekly basis that you may not be paying attention to its contents.

On several occasions, I have written letters concerning the plethora of "product" (as the publishers refer to it) available versus my diminishing time. I have also mentioned the experiences of a good friend who is giving away a portion of his comics to hospitals because of his diminishing space and the fact that he cannot profitably resell them. (They are mostly recent comics.) I have told of the fact that my own collection is rapidly becoming a simple accumulation due to the lack of time to organize and bag my monthly titles.

Finally, Maggie has written several notes about the likelihood of future scarcity because of space limitations amongst aging fans. Other folks, too, have been writing in occasional letters about this topic.

Wake up!

[JJM: Lon, I wouldn't have advanced a theory based just on my own experience.]

(Continues on Page 16)

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By Chris Smigiano



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18 Chapter 05

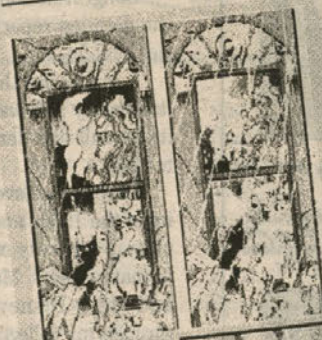


Figure 8-16 The example above shows a before and after of an ocean ripple filter to give the impression of wet pane of glass. At right a frosted glass filter was run. In both cases the filter was run on each individual CMYK channel because they only run in RGB and gray scale.

a base color or gradation. Make a selection out of the texture channel, and de-select the area outside the masked area by option clicking with the wand tool. Then go to IMAGE>ADJUST>CURVES and adjust the colors (either darken or lighten). Inverse the selection and de-select the outside masked area again. Finally, apply the opposite curve adjustment. This method gives more precise control over color content. It also allows for using multiple filters to create a single texture without damaging color

COLOR HOLDS vs. OVERLAYS
An area of confusion that often arises

Color Separations 21

Chapter 05

of the logo. Keep in mind that sections of the logo colors must trap underneath the black line artwork, so the mask will be made to create this trap.

Go to SELECT>MODIFY>EXPAND create a trap. Be sure to expand black lines. A smaller expansion needs to spread outside the line.

or art. How applied before black plate file has been Color handling dealing with art and black line applied at black line

APPLY

The best create texture through of character curves. example texture would catch the cloud

The pattern then a near levels amount. This rough texture

This then select apply a few of for color in

The then inverse and the color lightened, in order to apply highlights

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39	NM	File

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11	FVF River City	\$35
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65	Fine+	\$40
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1	Good	\$100
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Uncanny Tales

39	VF+ River City	\$105
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91	Good	\$12

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56	VF-	\$4

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31	Fair	\$5
64	Fine+	\$50
80	VG/F	\$30
81	FVF	\$35
82	VF Mohawk Valley	\$100

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4	River City	\$50

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34	VG+	\$85
40	VG/VF+	\$225
47	VF+	\$175
53	NM-	\$175
54	VF-	\$110
57	VF-	\$110

Wonder Woman

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199	NM	\$60

Wonderworld

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19	VG/F	\$190

Wonderworld

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156	Fine+	\$30

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13	VF/VF+	\$195
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17	VF/NM	\$140
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23	VF/VF+	\$80
24	FVF	\$40
25	VF	\$60
26	VF/VF+	\$70
27	VF+	\$80
28	VF+	\$80
29	VF	\$60
31	NM-	\$95
32	VF++	\$60
34	VF/NM	\$75
36	VF	\$40
37	VF+	\$50

Oh, So?

From
Page
14

es. I'm not that gutsy. I approached the line of thinking with a notion that similar complaints had been aired in the past — I just didn't cite chapter and verse and was hoping to spark a specific discussion **now**. Looks as if I succeeded ...]

Gary Brown

4930 Haverhill Commons Circle, Apt. 23
West Palm Beach, FL 33417

Congratulations on **CBG** #1354, specifically the detailed reports on the Dell *Four Color* series.

It is a series that is long overdue not just for its lengthy survival in a tough business, but for its overall excellence in both writing and illustrating.

Despite my love for the DC and Marvel Comics of the 1950s and '60s, I somehow managed to pick up a variety of *Four Color* issues during my formative years. Many of them were Duck comics and other Disney offshoots, but, after going through my collection of Dells a few years ago, I was surprised at the variety of comics they published and I bought.

But, as I read through them again, I found solid writing in each issue. Maybe they weren't blockbusters, but told good stories without drifting into ridiculous fights or ending with a "Continued next month."

One of my favorite Dell-Gold Key artists is Dan Spigle. Spigle always managed to give us readers a variety of angles to keep the story lively, if it included several pages of dialogue and little action. His work on *Maverick*, *Space Family Robinson*, and *Scooby Do* are classic examples of how well the Dell-Gold Key formula worked.

Thanks again for renewing our interest in
and knowledge of the truly fine *Four Color* series.

Chris Juricich

1808 Chestnut St.
Berkeley, CA 94702

Brent Frankenhoff's editorial regarding creators' being late in publishing had a reasonable response, I thought. If the book ain't there, find something else! And suggesting to retailers to act upon that consumer disappointment by directing them at other sales possibilities makes perfect sense — provided the retailer in question can lift his eyes from that comic book he's reading or the consumer can hear the suggestion over the acid rock blaring in his ears. But that's another problem, eh?

When I hop into Comic Relief in Berkeley each Wednesday or Thursday to check out what's been racked, I have very low expectations. That means I am rarely disappointed. So, if I've been wondering where *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* has been for the past three months or *Berlin* from Jason Lutes, I don't get vexed. Hey, there's always something available to read, isn't there? Frankly, if there's very little, then I'm inclined to try new material for a change — or maybe spring for that graphic novel I passed on the week past.

As for those professional comics creators out there who can't keep deadlines, because their

nose is running (sorry, Kurt Busiek, just kidding; sinus infections are nothing to sneeze at — it just sounds funny to the *unaffected* out in comic-book land) or he's suffering creative angst or is suffering from terminal prima donna-ism, it's simple: Don't solicit till the work is done. It's a disservice to the retailers, for the most part, and, well, it just gives you a bad reputation.

I know that, in the distant past, comic-book creators seemed more serious about deadlines and didn't suffer from — well, whatever keeps so many creators' nowadays from doing work on time. Back then, to be fair, the comics were all ongoing series monthly or bimonthly, yes? Editors felt OK about having fill-in issue material ready in case Joe Kubert got the flu or Gene Colan sprained his wrist. It was standard: We'd await the big conclusion, and there would be a different artist with a different story in place. Nowadays, that doesn't work because it would mess up continuity, man! Superman comes out each week, and each story is tied to the next — you don't break the streak. Moreover, there are lots of mini-series going on, as well, and you don't bring out an issue of *Batman: Dark Victory* #5 with a fill-in story by Don Heck, do you?

No, it's a different world. Alternative cartoonists have specific problems, of course, in that they all have day jobs and work at night to earn their pittance and keep a few thousand of us goofy guys happy — I easily grant them loads of slack, if it's months between issues.

As for the guys who can't keep pace with the major publishers: Unless they're very, very good and selling, we all just wait patiently for the comic book to appear. The young, struggling comics artists for DC and Marvel don't have that option.

By the way, what I essentially took away from the article about Restarts in **CBG** #1355 was that, at one point, renumbering from #1 seemed to make some sort of logical sense but, in the most recent decade, it's been a decision that has been overused and almost strictly for purposes of increasing sales.

There was a time when all an editor had to worry about was facilitating good content. Now they're as concerned with marketing, accounting, and demographics as those other departments are in editorial. It's kinda sad, really, that such crossover skills seem requisite in order to increase sales or market share or what have you. No doubt in the past, whether it was the Silver Age revamp at DC or Stan and Jack trying to emulate the JLA's success by introducing The Fantastic Four, getting sales up has always been a basic concern of an editor to some extent.

But this renumbering gig? Tired. Overworked. Boring. The audience has become jaded by it all. New #1! (Yawn.) New creative team! (Your point?) The fate of all reality rests on this issue! (Been there, done that.)

So renumbering? The retailers may be the market of the publishers and may experience some jumps in sales for the #1 issues, but such short-sightedness! Big sales jump, oh, big whoop, but we all know what happens to #2's, don't we? Who benefits, other than the publisher and the bargain-bin hunters?

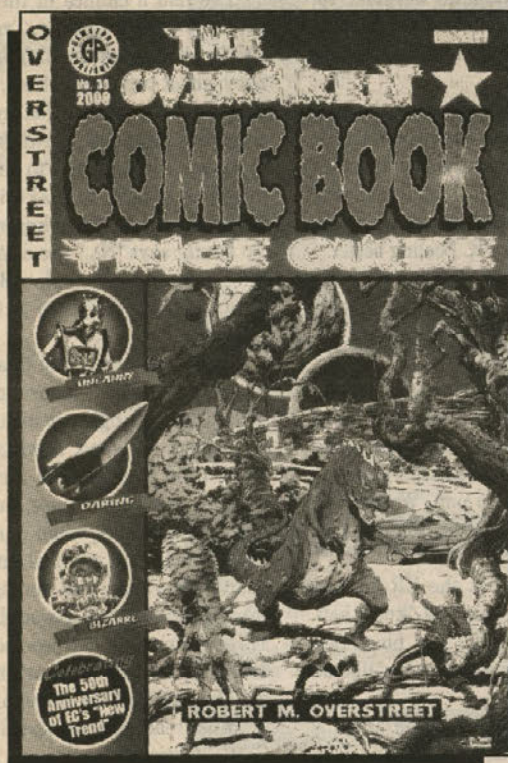
As Editor Mike Carlin mentioned, content should be king — and, in his experience, is the proof of a series' success. Renumbering targets retailers who more than likely will find the bulk of sales of those issues going to one-shot buyers and speculators (and they're still around).

(Continues on Page 18)

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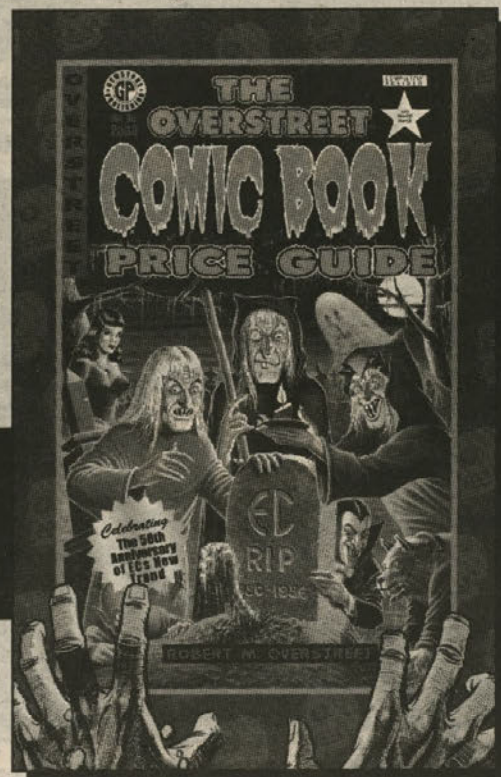
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Oh, So?

From
Page
16

Howie Gold

Thank you for the *Maison Ikkoku* comics I won (not for the first time) in a recent *CBG* contest. I encourage everyone to send in his or her postcard. My son David (who will probably end up typing most of this for me) is especially thrilled, since he is into manga more than I.

I am blessed to be able to write this letter, so I'm including some health notes. If you have cardiac risk factors, such as diabetes, are overweight, have a family history with heart problems, high blood pressure, and/or chest pain that lasts more than a minute or two, get a physical exam. For the chest pain, especially: Call your doctor, call 911, and/or go to the emergency room! Don't wait, figuring it's only heartburn or gas.

Thursday before Labor Day, I had a few times some chest pain that lasted for a few seconds, then would go away. **Symptom #1.** Also, a couple of times over the weekend, I felt a few "tinglings" in the tips of my left hand's fingers. **Symptom #2.**

I kept saying to myself, "It's not bad; it keeps going away." By Monday evening, after a particularly large dinner, I was nauseated and returned said dinner. **Symptom #3.** Felt better, but the chest pain had been increasing bit by bit in intensity, frequency, and duration all weekend, so, at the next chest pain, I decided to leave the barbecue earlier than originally planned and drive David the 50 miles home.

More "come and go" chest pain along the way. Should I stop at the ER on the way home? Traffic jam on the interstate nearing the construction area. Some more pain. Should I pull over and flag someone with a cell phone? Or get the attention of a police car? Nah, I'm OK. Feeling better.

Waiting for traffic to move. Profusely sweating. **Symptom #4.** Talked calmly about it with David (15). He agreed that, when we got to the appropriate exit, I should drive to the ER.

When we got to the hospital's exit, I felt fine. I decided to drive home, and, if I felt chest pain again, I'd have sainted wife Sue drive me to the ER. As soon as I passed the exit, the pain returned for a bit. It was now 9 p.m. We arrived home. Lovely Sue called our doctor from the cell phone in her car.

Said Saint was lectured at the ER for not calling 911, since she is a nurse and "knew better." All tests, such as the EKG and blood enzymes were normal, so they suspected gallbladder or stomach problems.

I was admitted to the Telemetry unit about 2 a.m. The pain returned, was excruciating and continuous until around 8 a.m. The nurse kept saying that the test results and monitors were still all normal and insisting that my doctor would call in the morning. Not wanting to page him at 3 a.m., I just called her in periodically, to moan and groan and complain about the pain.

In the morning, the pain ceased a bit, but did not completely subside, until, I think, they gave me a nitroglycerin drip, or some such medication. Maybe it was the morphine drip. At this point, I don't recall. After an ultrasound to look for the stomach or other problems, I was given a stress test, because the cardiologist was concerned about my family's history of heart problems.

The last time I was on a treadmill in my doctor's office, I had continued for 11-12 minutes. In the hospital, Tuesday afternoon, I made it five-six minutes, and couldn't make my target heart rate of 148. But, finally, my EKG and blood enzymes were showing some abnormalities.

I had my first heart attack in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Tuesday night.

Thank God for me, there was a Wednesday morning.

I'm not going into much detail with the procedures, but they did an angiogram and found 100% blockage in one artery, 80% in another, and 40-60% in a third, much smaller, more insignificant one. Luckily, there was a huge open artery in back that kept me alive.

Next day, Thursday, time to transport me to another hospital, because the first one didn't have something called a "cardiac surgical back-up team." At the second hospital, I had an angioplasty, which resulted in two metal "stents," or frames, in each of the two now open and now unblocked, important arteries.

I felt great. Friday, I started walking around, weaker than the day before when I stayed in bed all day, but still OK. On Saturday morning, I was discharged. Whew!

Next Mon. Morning, 3 a.m. Chest pain. Whole thing repeated. Sainted wife drove to ER. Heart attack in ER. Transported Tuesday morning. Angiogram and 'plasty, Wednesday to reopen, or fully open, one of the stents. Home on Friday.

I've had a chance in the last four weeks to catch up on my reading. I've finished all of the *CBGs* I had set aside, unfinished, since last January: about two dozen of 'em. I finished rereading Edward Abbey's *The Monkey Wrench Gang* and then read its sequel, *Hayduke Lives*. I'm starting to make a dent in my "to read now" comics pile and was hoping to make it back to my high school English and Reading students on Oct. 18.

Doctor says "No," two days ago. Stay home for another two-four weeks. Be more active and stronger first. Walk. Go to Cardiac Rehab sessions.

I won't go much into financial issues, either. So far, my medical insurance seems to be adequate. Everything's not included, but manageable, knock on wood. Again, I thank God, this time, that I purchased disability insurance, which I now have to use, hopefully, for not too long. I'm glad that when our comics community people have had medical emergencies without health insurance, I've managed to help a bit. I can't imagine what it would be like without it. Three statements I've seen so far have totaled @ \$55,000, and I doubt that's half of it. I've spent less than \$200 so far. Enough of this.

Must read, now or next, list: *Bone*, *Madman*, *Castle Waiting* (I know, I am, also!), *World Below*, *The Simpsons*; Michael Zulli, Brian Bolland, Jim Starlin, Alex Ross, and Ted McKeever art; *Groo*, *Fanboy*, and more. Thanks to Ross Petersen for the San Diego T-shirt, *Sandman Mystery Theatre* comics to read, and '40s serial videos to peruse.

Thanks for listening.

P.S. 20/20 recently had a story on George Reeves and Superman.

[See also this issue's editorial. OK, folks, pay **attention** to what your body is trying to tell you. (And treasure the fact that comics are nice and light to read while lying down.)

I had the delightful opportunity to chat with
(Continues on Page 20)



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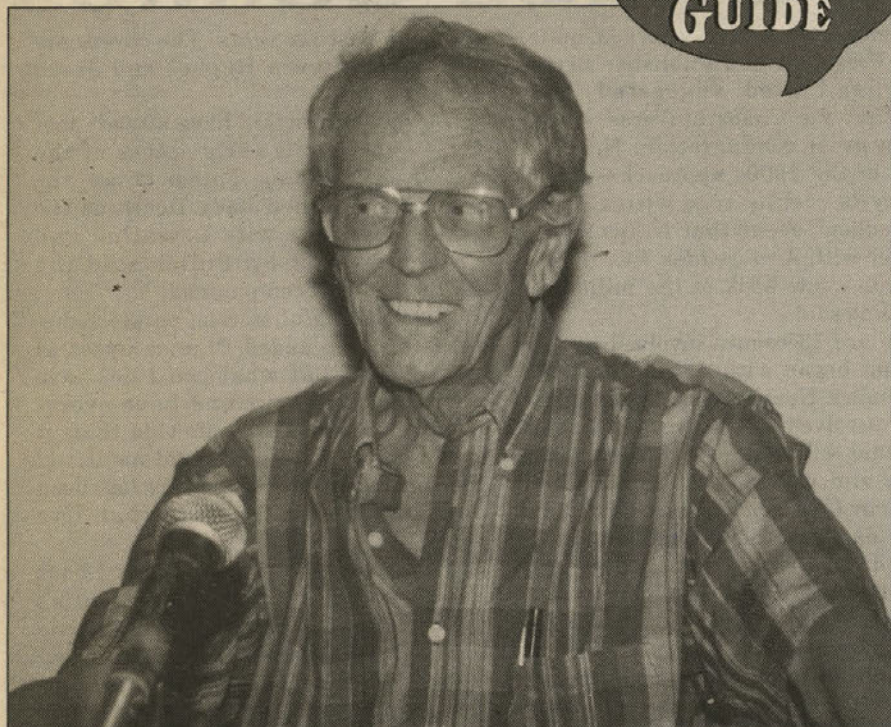
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THE END APPROACHES for Chaos Comics

For more than five years, Chaos Comics President and Publisher Brian Pulido has hinted, suggested, and teased that the Chaos universe would end in a great conflagration. Now, as the end of the 1990s approaches, that prophecy is coming true with Chaos' "Armageddon" event that wraps up in December with *Armageddon* #4, "the final Chaos comic book of the millennium," Pulido said.

There are 13 comics involved in the event that began with *Armageddon* #1 in September. Nearly every Chaos character is involved in the crossover that Pulido said will reveal both the origin and the end of the Chaos universe. "This is our *Crisis on Infinite Earths* for the new dark and deadly millennium," he added. "We have made it easy for readers to track the stories by creating a timeline of the 13 issues on our website and in our advertising."

In addition to the four-issue *Armageddon*, titles included in the crossover are *Lady Death: Judgement War*, *Evil Ernie: War of the Dead*, and *Purgatori: Goddess Rising*. The *Armageddon* mini-series is written by Pulido and Len Kaminski with art by Luke Ross. Each 32-page issue retails for \$2.95. "Each issue in the series gains momentum and speed," Pulido said.

An alternative vision at the end. The final three issues of the crossover, *Lady Death: Judgement War* #3, *Evil Ernie: War of the Dead* #3, and *Armageddon* #4 are all scheduled to ship in December. Variant covers are planned for 25% of the print run of each issue with the three variants forming a triptych featuring every Chaos character

from the past six years. The covers are created by Steven Hughes and Jason Jensen.

Several characters have already met their ends in the early stages of the crossover, including: Father Orbec, the priest who burned Lady Death at the stake; Lucifer's wife Leviatha; and President Ramsey. Pulido said the deaths had all been planned.

"In meaningful stories, people sometimes die," he added. "I'm as upset as the readers, but what can I do, have 'Armageddon' occur and have everything turn out OK? I can't do that; it would cheat the readers and me out of the conclusion that this story has been building toward for more than five years."

Pulido said that several major Chaos characters will meet their ends during the remainder of the crossover. A battle to the death between Lady Death and Purgatori is planned for the *Lady Death vs. Purgatori* one-shot scheduled to ship in November. "It's not hyperbole," Pulido said. "The 'Armageddon' storyline is my version and tribute to epic, cosmos-spanning crossover storylines of the past — but with the Chaos twist: The deaths are real and they hit like a cold fist in the gut. If I do my job right, 'Armageddon' will be a story that fans will remember for a long time."

Pulido did point out that, while the crossover spells the end for several characters, it is *not* the end for the company. New series are planned for next year, including *Aftermath*, which focuses on a survivor of the crossover. Chaos' wrestling titles will expand in the new year with WWF 2000 joining *Stone Cold Steve Austin* and *Undertaker*.



Pacific Comic Exchange offers Pacific Coast Collection • 7,000 Silver Age titles are in high grades •

A collection of more than 7,000 comics purchased from California newsstands has been acquired by Pacific Comic Exchange. Pacific Comic Exchange President Robert Roter has named it the Pacific Coast Collection and described the large group as consisting "mainly of virtually unread high-grade copies of nearly complete runs of most major comic books published between 1962 and 1977." The comics come from nearly every major publisher of the era, including DC, Marvel, Gold Key, Dell, ACG, and Warren, as well as a number of copies of *Mad*. Roter said that the average grade for the comics was Near-Mint-plus and that nearly all the comics had "off-white to white pages."

Roter elaborated, "While it is unusual to find complete runs of major comics titles from the early 1960s through the

1970s, it is even more rare to find copies that have virtually no wear and tear or other handling defects," adding that the collection was "reminiscent of the Mile High collection, as the collector had stored his comics in six-foot-high stacks."

Several key issues have already been sold from the collection, including *Amazing Fantasy* #15, *Amazing Spider-Man* #1, and *Incredible Hulk* #1.

Roter said that NM+ copies of *X-Men* #1 (first series) and *Tales of Suspense* #39 are still available.

"The *X-Men* #1 is spectacular," he added. "We've sold several copies of this issue, but this is by far the nicest copy we have ever seen."

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- Does the new *JLA/The Titans: The Technis Imperative* graphic novel rock? And if so, how hard? Read our review and find out!
- Want to know what the top comic-book creators are reading? Picks from the Pros features recommendations by artist **Jae Lee** and writer **Christopher Golden**.

This week in our **Message Boards**

- Our Artists Speak message boards let you chat with some of the top talents in the business, such as **Judd Winick**, creator of *The Adventures of Barry Ween: Boy Genius*, and *Superman* and *Batman* writer **Jeph Loeb**.

This week in **The Reading Room**

- How does the idea of reading samples of your favorite comics online grab you? Right now in our Reading Room, you can peruse a few pages of *Whiteout: Melt #1* or feast your eyes on our gallery of art from **Dan Breerton's Giantkiller** portfolio.





THE FAVORITE INKERS OF THE CENTURY

1 Terry Austin

#1 favorite of Fans and *CBG* readers
#3 favorite of Pros



He's done a wide variety of projects, building himself an audience of fans for work on such titles as *Detective Comics*, *Doctor Strange*, *New Mutants*, *Robin*, *Superman Adventures*, and *Uncanny X-Men*.

"Terry Austin can make anyone look great," said voter Don Schick of Pensacola, Fla. "His linework is the best in the business."

In the modern era, Austin has been the Six-Fan Award Man of inking, taking top honors in the annual *CBG* poll from 1986 to 1989 and in 1996 and 97.

Terry Austin's first-place finishes by wide margins in two of our surveys netted him the overall honors. Unlike some categories dominated by current talent, most high-ranking finishers in this poll did most of their work in the Silver Age.

Dick Giordano finished sixth overall, followed by Scott Williams, winner of five consecutive *CBG* Fan Awards for inking in 1990-1994. Dick Ayers placed eighth overall, followed by Carl Barks and Neal Adams.

Voters speak out!

John E. Petty
Irving, Texas

Terry Austin. One of the few inkers who manages to complement a penciller's style without overwhelming it. His work with John Byrne (*FF*, *X-Men*) stands out.

Joseph M. Tages II
Anaheim, Calif.

Brett Breeding is my favorite all-time inker. (Especially on George Pérez).

Brian Jones
Phoenix, Ariz.

For his work on Adams' 1960s-1970s *Deadman* and *Batman*: **Dick Giordano.**

Sean M. Meiers
Stafford, Va.

This one was tough. Most of the people who came to mind for artist do both pencilling and inking — Tim Truman, Frank Miller, Don Rosa, Bill Sienkiewicz, Tom Mandrake — and rarely ink the work of others.

Then I remembered **Al Milgrom**; I've liked every project that he has been associated with. Terry Austin was the only other person in serious contention in this category.

Jeffrey C. Wooten
Grifton, N.C.

My vote in this category goes to **Jerry Ordway**, the best friend of any penciller. I first fell under the spell of his embellishing prowess with *All-Star Squadron* (the best *The JSA* has ever looked), followed by *Fantastic Four* and *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, just to name a few. When I think about it, I've just never seen him perform a bad inking job. His Mr. Fantastic really looked like he could save the world, and his Superman is the closest comics have come to capturing the Fleischers on the printed page. (Silver: Terry Austin; Bronze: Dick

CBG READERS

Terry Austin.....19.2%	Frank Miller.....1.2%
Murphy Anderson.....10.6%	Steve Ditko.....1.2%
Joe Sinnott.....10.2%	Will Eisner.....1.0%
Dick Giordano.....7.9%	Chic Stone.....1.0%
Tom Palmer.....5.6%	George Pérez.....0.9%
Wally Wood.....5.1%	Jerry Ordway.....0.9%
Carl Barks.....2.9%	Bill Sienkiewicz.....0.9%
Dick Ayers.....2.1%	Bob Layton.....0.8%
Al Williamson.....1.5%	Jimmy Palmiotti.....0.8%
Vince Colletta.....1.4%	Scott Williams.....0.7%
Joe Rubenstein.....1.4%	Jim Mooney.....0.7%
Klaus Janson.....1.3%	Mark Schultz.....0.7%
Bill Everett.....1.2%	Others.....18.8%

COMICS PROFESSIONALS

Murphy Anderson.....11.1%	Joe Kubert.....3.7%
Joe Sinnott.....10.8%	Walt Kelly.....3.1%
Terry Austin.....10.3%	Mike Mignola.....2.9%
Wally Wood.....9.4%	Jaime Hernandez.....2.2%
Dick Ayers.....6.1%	Gil Kane.....2.0%
Tom Palmer.....5.4%	Mark Schultz.....2.0%
Dick Giordano.....4.0%	Frank Giacoia.....1.8%
Irving Watanabe.....3.7%	Others.....21.5%

GENERAL FANDOM

Terry Austin.....17.1%	Wally Wood.....3.0%
Scott Williams.....11.7%	Carl Barks.....2.8%
Joe Sinnott.....9.0%	Dick Giordano.....2.6%
Tom Palmer.....7.6%	John Dell.....2.5%
Murphy Anderson.....7.3%	Frank Miller.....2.2%
Neal Adams.....3.4%	Bob Fingerman.....1.7%
Pat Block.....3.1%	Dick Ayers.....1.5%
Al Vey.....3.0%	Others.....21.5%

Ayers.)

I could not vote for Carl Barks or any of the other *auteurs* in this category, since I decided to vote only for professionals who have inked at least three other individuals.

R. Robert Pollack
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Murphy Anderson. When he pencilled and inked his own work, as in the *Hawkman* series during the 1960s or the *Buck Rogers* newspaper strip in the late '40s and then again in the late '50s, he always created a rich look of distinction.

He stayed at DC for decades inking Kane, Infantino, and many other's pencils, making them look so very wonderful and special! He's part-

ly responsible for a "look" DC had for decades. And it was terrific!

Walter M. Marvin
Albany, N.Y.

Bill Everett is my favorite inker on Jack Kirby, Bill Everett, Gene Colan, and Gil Kane. That's why I picked him.

John G. Pierce
Columbus, Ohio

Murphy Anderson. Also a great penciller, but the best inker for Swan, Infantino, etc.

Richard Bell
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Dick Ayers — unsung hero of early Marvel.

2 Joe Sinnott

#2 favorite of Pros • #3 favorite of Fans and *CBG* readers



Sinnott worked in comics since before the start of the Silver Age but is probably most affectionately regarded for his labors in Marvel's bullpen, especially as Jack Kirby's inker on *Fantastic Four*. However, his work appeared for long periods on such other titles as *Avengers*, *Captain America*, *Thor*, and *West Coast Avengers* — and he didn't stop there, by any means. Sinnott won his share of attention in earlier fan awards, taking the Alley Award for Favorite Inker in 1967-68.

3 Murphy Anderson

#1 Favorite of Pros • #2 Favorite of *CBG* Readers • #5 Favorite of Fans



He's a Golden Age artist, too, but most readers today probably connect Anderson most fondly with such characters as DC's Adam Strange. "Murphy Anderson — the 'Terry Austin' of his day," said voter Lee Houston Jr. of Houston, Texas. He worked on such DC titles as *Flash*, *Hawkman*, and *Justice League*, winning one of the earliest fan awards for inking, the Alley Award in 1962, followed by more awards 1964-65.

4 Tom Palmer

#4 Favorite of Fans • #5 Favorite of *CBG* readers • #6 Favorite of Pros

He inked more than 150 issues of Marvel's *Avengers* and most of *Tomb of Dracula*. Among earlier fan awards, Palmer won the Alley Award for Favorite Inker in 1969 — when he was doing dynamic work on *Doctor Strange*. But he's worked on lots of other projects, including *Conan*, *Daredevil*, *Doctor Strange*, *Moon Knight*, *Star Wars*, *Steel*, and *Thunderbolts*.

5 Wally Wood

#4 Favorite of Pros • #6 Favorite of *CBG* readers • #9 Favorite of Fans

Many connect the late Wally Wood entirely to his work for E.C., where he did work ranging from great science fiction to wild, gag-filled comedy. But he did far more, including self-publishing. "Longevity, versatility, technique: Wally Wood's got it all," said voter Kenneth Feduniewicz of Island Heights, N.J. "His inks, over anyone else's pencils, lifted others' work up to his level."

Favorite Comic-Book Publishing Company:	DC
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Flash: "For your benefit, I got this way from inhaling the gaseous elements of hard water!"

Scientist: "Of course, that's scientifically possible — under certain conditions!"

— **Flash Comics** #9 (Sep 40)

Regular readers of this column already know I am a huge fan of the DC Archives. They provide modern readers the opportunity to examine classic and historically important stories of some of DC's greatest characters for a fraction of the price of the original comic books, assuming one could even find them. In addition, the hardcover format makes for a package that looks great on either a home bookcase or public library shelf and stands up to multiple readings.

In short, I love the things.

I'm not going to claim that the 17 stories in the *Golden Age Flash Archives* Vol. 1 (\$49.95) are masterpieces of the comics art form. They're not. For one thing, The Flash is so much more, well, everything, than the villains he faces, that there are very few moments of actual jeopardy for said hero. The stories take on a familiar pattern: see evil, beat evil. (The pattern changes in the last three tales collected in the volume, but I'll get to those in a bit.)

However, from a historical standpoint, *Golden Age Flash Archives* is a comics scholar's dream. Far more so than the various *Batman* and *Superman Archives* we've seen — Bill Finger and the other Bat-scribes hit the ground running with their tales of The Dark Knight Detective, producing works that are still entertaining today; Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster's *Superman* was such a powerful concept and on so many levels that their early efforts retain their power — these Flash stories show the emergence of the super-hero genre and one of its most important and popular contributors, Gardner Fox.

As Mark Waid correctly notes in his informative foreword, The Flash was the first "specialty" super-hero. Superman and his many imitators had all the super-powers, Batman and his many imitators had none of the super-powers, and The Flash had just the one super-power: speed. He was the "fastest thing on Earth."

Running fast is, admittedly, a cool super-power, but it would have become very dull very, ah, fast, if Fox hadn't started coming up with other applications of his hero's super-speed. As early as the first adventure, we see the Flash, not just dodging bullets with ease, but matching their speed so he can pluck them out of the air before they can hit their intended target. And, in what became a Fox trademark, he gave a "scientific" explanation for this amazing feat to his young readers, which can be seen in the upper right corner of this page.

In no time at all, Flash is using his

speed to render himself invisible to the human eye, to dismantle machinery and weapons in the blink of an eye, to disrobe the villains (adding humiliation to the sting of defeat), to throw 800-mile-per-hour punches, and to generally terrorize his foes by being everywhere at once. In one story, he pulls an outlaw's handlebar mustache constantly; the man eventually shaves it off. In another, he uses his speed to drive two criminals halfway through a door, explaining it by way of "the same principle that allows a hurricane to thrust a straw right through a tree-trunk uninjured."

Kids — please don't try this at home.

In *Flash Comics* #1 (Jan 40), we are introduced to Jay Garrick, who will become The Flash, and Joan Williams, she who will become his girlfriend and, eventually, his wife, as students at Midwestern University. They are friends but nothing more. Joan won't date Jay because he's a lowly "scrub" on the college football team and she thinks he's capable of so much more. I guess this is tough love, 1940s-style.

After Jay sucks up those hard water gases and spends weeks in a hospital recovering from the near-death ordeal, he learns he has become the fastest man on Earth. His doctor, conferring with his professor, says, "Science knows that hard water makes a person act much quicker than ordinarily." Which leads one to wonder why, if this were true, the armed forces didn't have every recruit taking in a lungful of those miraculous gases.

Joan is the first person to whom Jay reveals his super-speed and she immediately convinces the young man to use it to benefit, ah, their school football team. The rest of humanity would have to wait for a few more pages. But, before the end of the year, Joan is doing her 1940s best, which involves getting captured by the bad guys every few issues, to support The Flash in his efforts to help those in need.

The Flash didn't have much of a secret identity in the early stories. In *Flash Comics* #1, he uses his speed openly during "the big game." In #3, Joan's father matter-of-factly tells the police, "He's The Flash, you know." In #6, Jay uses his speed, as Garrick, to compete in Olympic trials and foil criminals trying to fix the competition. In #8, he poses as a wrestler while wearing his Flash costume. In #9, it's clear that his friend Jim knows Jay is The Flash. In that same story, he reveals his "hard water" origin to an elderly scientist.

It's not until *Flash Comics* #14 (Feb 41) that Jay asks Joan not to call him "Flash" in front of the miners he's helping. Just the same, in #17, as Garrick, he openly uses his speed to foil a baseball team owner's plan to force his players to lose games. At best, The Flash had a semi-secret identity.

Question. Other than these, I've only read a few dozen Golden Age Flash stories. Did Jay's cavalier attitude toward his "secret identity" continue throughout his 1940s adventures, or did he, at some point in the chronicles, start taking it more seriously? Your inquiring columnist would like to know.

Fox would try and sometimes discard



gimmicks in these early stories. In his second appearance, Jay hurls a metal lightning bolt into a wall and identifies it as his calling card. It's used once more and then never again.

Jay's obvious love of sports is consistent through the stories collected in this volume, as is an understated sadness that he can't participate in them. In #6, he tells Joan: "My speed is unnatural, Joan — it wouldn't be fair to those fellows for me to race against them. They spend years developing speed and to ask them to race against my scientific freak gift would be unsportsmanlike and un-American."

Although he clearly enjoys playing baseball in #17's tale, Garrick makes a similar comment when the repentant team owner asks him to continue playing for The Redskins.

Redskins? Geez, who would believe a professional sports team would have such a patently racist name?

The final three Flash stories in this collection could almost be called "Touched by a Super-Hero" in that The Flash defeats the bad guys and then reforms them. A pair of leg-breakers embrace new careers as circus clowns. A Mexican bandit (he of the oft-pulled mustache) becomes a sheriff. The baseball team owner vows to run his operation honestly, although that's at least partially due to The Flash explaining to him that, if his team always loses, no one would bet on them and the owner won't be able to profit by betting against them.

I have some additional notes before getting to our traditional comparison of what this book costs and what the original issues of *Flash Comics* would cost. No fair jumping ahead of the rest of us by looking at your price guides.

You've read in *CBG* and elsewhere that early comics editors and publishers were pretty much making it up as they went along. At the dawn of this business, they had no idea what would or would not be popular with their readers. The first five covers of *Flash Comics* bear that out.

The Flash appears on the cover of #1. The next covers showcase Hawkman, Cliff Cornwall, The Whip, and The King. Starting with

HOW DOES THE FLASH STOP A BULLET IN FLIGHT WITHOUT SUFFERING INJURY TO HIMSELF?

EXPLANATION. HIS PROCESS OF THOUGHT AND ACTION DUE TO HIS INHALATION OF THE HARD-WATER GASES HAVE BEEN SO QUICKENED THAT HE HAS THE SPEED OF LIGHT ITSELF!

AS A RESULT, HE CAN EASILY MATCH THE SPEED OF A BULLET...

WHEN TWO BODIES TRAVEL ALONG TOGETHER AT EQUAL SPEED EVEN TWO THEY MEET, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO FRICTION AND THEREFORE NO INJURY !!!

#6, The Flash and Hawkman would alternate covers on the title until its cancelation in early 1949.

I get a kick out of self-referential humor in comic books and strips. I spotted two examples of that in these stories.

In *Flash Comics* #15, The Flash joins a circus to help it over a slump in attendance. When he greets his fans, a young boy shouts to him, "Hey, Mr. Flash, I seen ya in *Flash Comics* and in *All Star* too — sign my autograph book, will ya, huh?"

An earlier story — you'll have to find it yourself — slips the name of *Flash Comics* Editor Sheldon Mayer into a background shot. Over the years and continuing to this day, writers and artists have "saluted" friends and peers in similar fashion.

Harry Lampert drew the first two *Flash* stories but would only contribute to a handful of tales before leaving comics. His replacement was E.E. Hibbard; a real workhorse for DC in the 1940s, Hibbard also drew Green Lantern stories.

Hal Sharp drew the final two stories in this collection, but the book provides no biographical information on him. Although his work was good, he doesn't seem to have drawn comics past 1945 or so. Anybody want to fill me in on this artist?

I've kept you in suspense long enough. I found fresh batteries for my calculator and can now tell you that the first 17 issues of *Flash Comics* — in Good condition — would cost you just under \$10,000. The *Golden Age Flash Archives* costs about .5% of that. Can I spot a bargain or what?

Of course, this *Archives* collection doesn't include the other features that appeared in *Flash Comics* #1-17. No Johnny Thunder, The Whip, Cliff Cornwall, Rod Rian, The King, or, most notably, no Golden Age Hawkman, but it's still a great deal. Not that I would be at all averse to DC's publishing a *Golden Age Hawkman Archives*. The sooner the better.

Comments on and review items for this column can be sent to: Tony's Tips, P.O. Box 1502, Medina, OH 44258. You can also e-mail Tony at: tonyisa@ohio.net.



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"The Essential Ellison" (1991; 3rd Mousie print; 1019 pp.; signed by Ellison on splash pg. VF-NM \$30

FRAZETTA, F. "Thunda" (1973; 9 1/2" x 3 1/4"; Russ Cochran; 1st, w/ "color cov. NM \$50

"The World of 'The Dark Crystal'" (1982; Knopf; 1st, 114 pp., 1 1/4" x 1 1/4" x .128 pp.; exhaustive VF+ \$30

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HERNANDEZ, LOS BROS "Love & Rockets Sketchbook" (1989; 1st, 175 pp.; larger format) VF \$30

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MARTIN, DON "Droll Book" (1992 Dark Horse; 126 pp.; 1st ed.) VF-NM \$25

MCNEGROD, D. "Dragonfire" (1978; 1/48" x 5 1/4" x .32 full pg. Galaxy illus.) VF-NM \$30

NAST, THOMAS "Christmas Drawings" (1978; Dover; 1st, 175 pp.; black & white w/ color cov.) VF-NM \$25

NOSTALGIA ABOUT COMICS" 1991 (6 rare foreign comics; excellent book) VF-NM \$25

PRINT MAGAZINE 1988 - Dec. ("Comics: A Special Issue"; articles, history & art. Rifas, \$25

Spiegelman, Panter, Miller, Wagner, Mottler, Adams, Clowes, Crumb, Eisner; approx 112, 9 1/2" x 12 1/4" VF, 2 Fine \$25

SCHWITZERBERGER, DE ES "Heavy Light" (1993; 10 1/2" x 12 1/4" full-color images from '62-'91; 84 pp.) VF \$20

SORAYAMA, NAJIME "Hyper Illustrations" (Circa 1986; made in Japan; color; approx. 95 pp.; author of "Sexy Robot") Fine+ in VG-FN illus. dust jacket \$25

THOMPSON, DON (FOREWORD) "Collector's Guide to Comic Books" (1990; 221 pp.; by J. Hogenberg; full of lame investment strategies, silly info (how to properly turn pages), and corny advice (tip: don't spend all your cash on comics, at the con, because you have to eat; some color reprints) VF \$12

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320 FN	8.00	31 FN	40.00	131 VF +	8.00	22 FN	11.00	109 VF +	5.00	21 VF/NM (Miller art)		13.00		160 (80 pg) FN	42.00	36 FN +	31.00	80 VG (Ad coupon miss- ing)	2.00	1 VF +	12.00	1 VG	13.00	134 VG	5.00	137 VF +				
347 (80 pg) VF +	39.00	32 FN/VF	70.00	135 FN +	12.00	23 VF	22.00	109 VF +	5.00	CAPTAIN AMERICA		DEFENDERS		161 G/VG	42.00	37 VF +	72.00	79 VG (Ad coupon miss- ing)	2.00	1 VF +	17.00	15 FN/VF	19.00	135 VG	4.00	138 VF				
357 VF +	15.00	33 FN	95.00	135 VG +	9.00	25 VF/NM	38.00	100 VF/NM	265.00	2 G +	3.00			163 FN/VG	4.00	38 VF +	75.00	80 VG	8.00	1 VF	12.00	15 FN/VF	19.00	136 VG	6.00	140 VF/NM				
ADVENTURE		34 FN	53.00	137 VF +	26.00	26 VF	32.00	100 VF/NM	20.00	28 FN	4.00			166 FN +	43.00	48 VF +	55.00	82 VG (2 ad panels miss- ing)	2.00	2 G +	5.00	188 VG	7.00	1 NM	3.00	137 FN	7.00	141 FN		
325 VF (2 panels miss- ing)	36 FN/VF	37 FN	70.00	139 FN/VF	5.00	27 VF/NM	38.00	100 G	20.00	29 FN +	5.00			168 VF +	43.00	49 VF/NM	67.00	83 VG +	7.00	2 G +	5.00	188 VG	7.00	1 NM	3.00	138 (80 pg) G/VG	7.00	143 FN		
326 VF (Ad panel miss- ing)	37 VG	38 FN	31.00	146 VF +	12.00	29 FN +	48.00	103 FN +	11.00	DELL GIANT		80 PAGE GIANT		169 (80 pg) VF/NM	50 VF + (Pulled staple)	84 VG +	7.00	84 VG +	7.00	4 FN/VF	4.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	139 FN	7.00	144 FN		
331 VG	7.00	39 FN	120.00	148 FN/VF	10.00	30 FN +	48.00	104 FN +	11.00	Silly Symphonies 7 G (1st page missing)		6.00		170 VF +	95.00	51 VF/NM	50.00	86 VG	6.00	6 VF + (4 available)	6.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	140 VG	11.00	150 VF +		
342 VG +	4.00	40 FN	42.00	150 FN/VF	4.00	31 VF +	31.00	105 VF +	24.00	DENNIS THE MENACE		6.00		173 VF	70.00	53 NM	55.00	87 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	141 G	11.00	151 VG/NM		
344 VG/FN	4.00	41 FN	180.00	152 VF/NM	9.00	32 VF +	31.00	106 VG/FN	7.00	35 VG		9.00		174 VF +	33.00	54 VF	50.00	88 VG	6.00	4 FN/VF	4.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	142 G	11.00	152 VG/NM		
345 VG/FN	4.00	42 FN	24.00	155 NM	11.00	33 FN	11.00	107 NM	33.00	35 FN +		3.00		175 VF/NM	100.00	55 VF	50.00	89 VG	6.00	50 FN +	5.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	143 G	11.00	153 VG/NM		
346 FN	5.00	43 FN/VF	59.00	156 FN/VF	3.00	34 FN	3.00	108 NM	33.00	DETECTIVE		6.00		176 VF +	100.00	56 VF/NM	50.00	90 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	144 G	11.00	154 VG/NM		
364 FN +	4.00	44 FN	21.00	157 NM	11.00	42 VF +	18.00	241 FN	3.00	251 FR/VG		19.00	9 G +	15.00	177 VF +	39.00	55 VF/NM	50.00	91 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	145 G	11.00	155 VG/NM	
367 VF/NM	12.00	43 VF +	70.00	157 VF/NM	9.00	43 VF +	18.00	242 FN	3.00	256 VG		40.00	10 VF	15.00	178 (80 pg) VF	45.00	56 VF/NM	50.00	92 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	146 G	11.00	156 VG/NM	
368 FN/VF	6.00	43 VF +	20.00	158 FN/VF	5.00	44 F +	18.00	243 FN	3.00	256 G/VG		35.00	11 FN	28.00	178 (80 pg) G/VG	45.00	57 VF/NM	55.00	91 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	147 G	11.00	157 VG/NM	
459 VF/NM (5 available)	8.00	44 VF +	50.00	159 FN/VF	8.00	53 FN	10.00	244 FN	3.00	256 G/VG		35.00	12 VF +	120.00	179 VF +	39.00	58 VF/NM	55.00	92 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	148 G	11.00	158 VG/NM	
ADVENTURES IN JET POWER (1958 General Electric Giveaway)		44 G +	12.00	184 VF	3.00	54 FN/VF	22.00	45 (118) VG	6.00	256 G +		30.00	13 VF	100.00	180 FN	15.00	59 VF/NM	55.00	93 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	149 G	11.00	159 VG/NM	
ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN		45 VG	60.00	185 VF +	5.00			65 (131) VG	7.00	256 G +		30.00	14 FN/VF	52.00	217 VG +	5.00	60 VF/NM	55.00	94 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	150 G	11.00	160 VG/NM	
ADVENTURES OF ALAN LADD		46 VF	60.00	186 VF	4.00			74 (0) G +	40.00	259 G		22.00	15 G +	15.00	217 VG +	5.00	61 VF/NM	55.00	95 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	151 G	11.00	161 VG/NM	
ADVENTURES OF BOB HOPE		47 FN/VF	90.00	189 VF	4.00	101 G	43.00	85 (0) VG	9.00	329 FN (Panel miss- ing)		7.00		217 VG	3.50	62 VF/NM	55.00	96 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	152 G	11.00	162 VG/NM		
ADVENTURES OF THE FLY		48 VF	18.00	190	2.00	102 G	43.00	86 (0) VG	6.00	330 FN		7.00		217 VG	3.50	63 VF/NM	55.00	97 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	153 G	11.00	163 VG/NM		
ADVENTURES ON THE PLANET OF THE APES		49 VF	60.00	191	2.00	103 G	43.00	87 (0) VG	6.00	331 FN (Panel miss- ing)		7.00		217 VG	3.50	64 VF/NM	55.00	98 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	154 G	11.00	164 VG/NM		
ALARMING ADVENTURES		50 VF	35.00	192	2.00	104 G	43.00	88 (0) VG	6.00	332 FN/VF (Coupon miss- ing)		9.00	44 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	65 VF/NM	55.00	99 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	155 G	11.00	165 VG/NM	
ALL ABOUT MR. LINCOLN (60's Association of American Railroads Giveaway)		51 VG/FN	25.00	193	2.00	105 G	43.00	89 (0) VG	6.00	333 FN/VF (Coupon miss- ing)		9.00	45 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	66 VF/NM	55.00	100 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	156 G	11.00	166 VG/NM	
AMERICAN SPORTS (Charlton 1967)		52 VG	66.00	194	2.00	106 G	43.00	90 (0) VG	6.00	334 VG		8.00	46 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	67 VF/NM	55.00	101 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	157 G	11.00	167 VG/NM	
AMAZING ADULT FANTASY		53 FN	53.00	195	2.00	107 G	43.00	91 (0) VG	6.00	335 VG		8.00	47 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	68 VF/NM	55.00	102 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	158 G	11.00	168 VG/NM	
AMAZING ADVENTURES (70's)		54 FN	44.00	196	2.00	108 G	43.00	92 (0) VG	6.00	336 VG		8.00	48 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	69 VF/NM	55.00	103 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	159 G	11.00	169 VG/NM	
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN		55 FN	18.00	197	2.00	109 G	43.00	93 (0) VG	6.00	337 VG		8.00	49 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	70 VF/NM	55.00	104 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	160 G	11.00	170 VG/NM	
AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS		56 FN	18.00	198	2.00	110 G	43.00	94 (0) VG	6.00	338 VG		8.00	50 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	71 VF/NM	55.00	105 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	161 G	11.00	171 VG/NM	
ATOMIC ADVENTURES		57 FN	18.00	199	2.00	111 G	43.00	95 (0) VG	6.00	339 VG		8.00	51 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	72 VF/NM	55.00	106 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	162 G	11.00	172 VG/NM	
ATOMIC ADVENTURES (70's)		58 FN	18.00	200	2.00	112 G	43.00	96 (0) VG	6.00	340 VG		8.00	52 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	73 VF/NM	55.00	107 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	163 G	11.00	173 VG/NM	
ATOMIC ADVENTURES (70's)		59 FN	18.00	201	2.00	113 G	43.00	97 (0) VG	6.00	341 VG		8.00	53 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	74 VF/NM	55.00	108 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	164 G	11.00	174 VG/NM	
ATOMIC ADVENTURES (70's)		60 FN	18.00	202	2.00	114 G	43.00	98 (0) VG	6.00	342 VG		8.00	54 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	75 VF/NM	55.00	109 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	165 G	11.00	175 VG/NM	
ATOMIC ADVENTURES (70's)		61 FN	18.00	203	2.00	115 G	43.00	99 (0) VG	6.00	343 VG		8.00	55 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	76 VF/NM	55.00	110 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	166 G	11.00	176 VG/NM	
ATOMIC ADVENTURES (70's)		62 FN	18.00	204	2.00	116 G	43.00	100 (0) VG	6.00	344 VG		8.00	56 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	77 VF/NM	55.00	111 VG	6.00	23 FR +	2.00	1 G/VG	11.00	6 FN	7.00	167 G	11.00	177 VG/NM	
ATOMIC ADVENTURES (70's)		63 FN	18.00	205	2.00	117 G	43.00	101 (0) VG	6.00	345 VG		8.00	57 G +	10.00	217 VG	3.50	78 VF/NM	55.00	112 VG	6.0										

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DOCTOR SOLAR 2 G/V 10.00	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	145 FR 6.00	1157 VG 12.00	1168 FN+ 22.00	127 FN 18.00	34 G+ 9.00	33 NM 11.00	SANDMAN (1974) 1 V/NM 13.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	138 FN+ 10.00	130 G+ 8.00	100 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
DR. STRANGE 171 FN 9.00	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	146 FR 6.00	1158 VG 12.00	1169 FN+ 22.00	128 FN 18.00	35 G+ 9.00	34 NM 11.00	SECRET AGENT 2 V/NM 75.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	139 FN+ 10.00	131 G+ 8.00	101 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
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FIGHTIN' NAVY 109 VF 19.00	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	149 FR 6.00	1161 VG 12.00	1172 FN+ 22.00	131 FN 18.00	38 G+ 9.00	37 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	142 FN+ 10.00	134 G+ 8.00	104 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
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	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	154 FR 6.00	1166 VG 12.00	1177 FN+ 22.00	136 FN 18.00	43 G+ 9.00	42 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	147 FN+ 10.00	139 G+ 8.00	109 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	155 FR 6.00	1167 VG 12.00	1178 FN+ 22.00	137 FN 18.00	44 G+ 9.00	43 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	148 FN+ 10.00	140 G+ 8.00	110 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	156 FR 6.00	1168 VG 12.00	1179 FN+ 22.00	138 FN 18.00	45 G+ 9.00	44 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	149 FN+ 10.00	141 G+ 8.00	111 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	157 FR 6.00	1169 VG 12.00	1180 FN+ 22.00	139 FN 18.00	46 G+ 9.00	45 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	150 FN+ 10.00	142 G+ 8.00	112 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	158 FR 6.00	1170 VG 12.00	1181 FN+ 22.00	140 FN 18.00	47 G+ 9.00	46 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	151 FN+ 10.00	143 G+ 8.00	113 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
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	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	162 FR 6.00	1174 VG 12.00	1185 FN+ 22.00	144 FN 18.00	51 G+ 9.00	50 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	155 FN+ 10.00	147 G+ 8.00	117 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	163 FR 6.00	1175 VG 12.00	1186 FN+ 22.00	145 FN 18.00	52 G+ 9.00	51 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	156 FN+ 10.00	148 G+ 8.00	118 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	164 FR 6.00	1176 VG 12.00	1187 FN+ 22.00	146 FN 18.00	53 G+ 9.00	52 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	157 FN+ 10.00	149 G+ 8.00	119 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	165 FR 6.00	1177 VG 12.00	1188 FN+ 22.00	147 FN 18.00	54 G+ 9.00	53 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	158 FN+ 10.00	150 G+ 8.00	120 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	166 FR 6.00	1178 VG 12.00	1189 FN+ 22.00	148 FN 18.00	55 G+ 9.00	54 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	159 FN+ 10.00	151 G+ 8.00	121 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	167 FR 6.00	1179 VG 12.00	1190 FN+ 22.00	149 FN 18.00	56 G+ 9.00	55 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	160 FN+ 10.00	152 G+ 8.00	122 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	168 FR 6.00	1180 VG 12.00	1191 FN+ 22.00	150 FN 18.00	57 G+ 9.00	56 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	161 FN+ 10.00	153 G+ 8.00	123 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	169 FR 6.00	1181 VG 12.00	1192 FN+ 22.00	151 FN 18.00	58 G+ 9.00	57 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	162 FN+ 10.00	154 G+ 8.00	124 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	170 FR 6.00	1182 VG 12.00	1193 FN+ 22.00	152 FN 18.00	59 G+ 9.00	58 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	163 FN+ 10.00	155 G+ 8.00	125 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	171 FR 6.00	1183 VG 12.00	1194 FN+ 22.00	153 FN 18.00	60 G+ 9.00	59 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	164 FN+ 10.00	156 G+ 8.00	126 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	172 FR 6.00	1184 VG 12.00	1195 FN+ 22.00	154 FN 18.00	61 G+ 9.00	60 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	165 FN+ 10.00	157 G+ 8.00	127 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	173 FR 6.00	1185 VG 12.00	1196 FN+ 22.00	155 FN 18.00	62 G+ 9.00	61 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	166 FN+ 10.00	158 G+ 8.00	128 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	174 FR 6.00	1186 VG 12.00	1197 FN+ 22.00	156 FN 18.00	63 G+ 9.00	62 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	167 FN+ 10.00	159 G+ 8.00	129 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	175 FR 6.00	1187 VG 12.00	1198 FN+ 22.00	157 FN 18.00	64 G+ 9.00	63 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	168 FN+ 10.00	160 G+ 8.00	130 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1 (1982) NM 8.00
	FUNNY FROGLICS 1 (1945) FN+ 65.00	176 FR 6.00	1188 VG 12.00	1199 FN+ 22.00	158 FN 18.00	65 G+ 9.00	64 NM 11.00	SECRET SIX 1 G+ 6.00	18 FN/VF 22.00	169 FN+ 10.00	161 G+ 8.00	131 FN 11.00	10 V+ 30.00	TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 1

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Mystery Contest #51 Winner

The winner of our 51st Mystery Contest from CBG #1349 was William Thom, Cleveland, OH, who correctly identified the panel as coming from "Superboy #164 (Apr. 70) William will receive a copy of Comic-Book Superstars. Keep those entries coming and keep watching for more contests in our pages.



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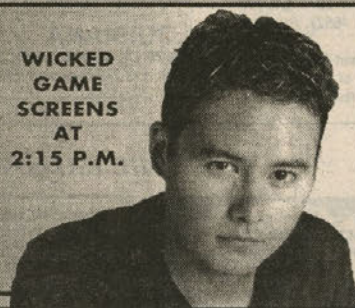


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Nov 12-14 CA, Los Angeles-LAX. 25th Anniversary OTR Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5985 W. Century Blvd., T: 12-8, F: \$30, A: \$110, members, \$125, non-members, Larry Gassman, PO Box 7177, Van Nuys, CA 91409. PH: 562-947-9800.

Nov 13-14 CA, Sacramento. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Sunrise Mall, Sunrise Blvd. & Greenback Ln., btw. Hwys. 50 & 80, SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 90, F: \$115-\$130. CA Sports Card Show, PH: 530-241-4063.

Nov 14 CA, Los Angeles. Comic Book & Science Fiction Convention, Shrine Auditorium Expo Ctr. 700 W. 32nd St., SH: 10am-5pm, A: \$5. Bruce Schwartz, 2319-A West Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91506. PH: 818-954-8432. Nov 14 CA, Santa Clara. 4th Annual Super-Con, Convention Ctr. 5001 Great America Pky., right next to Great America Amusement Park, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 60, A: \$5. Steve Wyatt, PH: 916-485-1887.

Dec 5 CA, Los Angeles. Comic Book & Science Fiction Convention, Shrine Auditorium Expo Ctr. 700 W. 32nd St., SH: 10am-5pm, A: \$5. Bruce Schwartz, 2319-A West Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91506. PH: 818-954-8432.

CONNECTICUT

Nov 28 CT, East Hartford. Comic Book Convention, Elks Hall, 148 Robert St. (Exit 58 off of I-84), SH: 11am-5pm, T: 35, F: \$45, A: \$99. The Bookie, Hal Kinney, 206 Burnside Ave., E. Hartford, CT 06108. PH: 860-289-1208.

ILLINOIS

Nov 13 IL, Orland Park. Comic Book, Sports, Toys, NASCAR & Beanie Show, Civic Ctr. La Grange Rd. (Rt. 45) at 147th St., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 85-6, F: \$30, A: \$1. John Leary, 9522 W. Shore Dr., Oak Lawn, IL 60453. PH: 708-423-1758.

Nov 28 IL, Orland Park. Comic Book, Sports, Toys, NASCAR & Beanie Show, Civic Ctr. La Grange Rd. (Rt. 45) at 147th St., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 85-6, F: \$30, A: \$1. John Leary, 9522 W. Shore Dr., Oak Lawn, IL 60453. PH: 708-423-1758.

INDIANA

Nov 13 IN, South Bend. Michiana Comicon, Holy Family Hall. Western at Mayflower, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 50, F: \$40, A: \$1. Jim Rossow, 53100 Poppy Rd., South Bend, IN 46628. PH: 219-232-8129 eves.

Nov 13-14 IN, Ft. Wayne. Comic Book & Collectible Hobby Show, Southtown Mall. US 27/33 S. at Tillman Rd., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 40, F: \$65, A: free. Gene Haberlich, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Nov 20-21 IN, Goshen. Comic Book & Collectible Hobby Show, Inn. US 33 E., SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 25, F: \$45, A: free. Gene Haberlich, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Nov 21 IN, Indianapolis. Comic Book, Toy & Animation Show, Holiday Inn East. 21st & Shadeland (Shadeland Ave. Exit of I-70 or I-465), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 60, F: \$70, A: \$4, 9 & under free. Andy & Diane

Holzman, 1947 Bechtel Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46260. PH: 317-334-0173 or 824-9602.

Nov 27 IN, Hammond. Comic Book & Collectible Hobby Show, F.O.P. #51. 7527 Kennedy Ave., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30, F: \$35, A: free. Gene Haberlich, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Dec 10-12 IN, Ft. Wayne. Comic Book & Collectibles Hobby Show, Southtown Mall. US 27 S. at Tillman Rd., SH: Fri. & Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 60, F: \$60-\$65, A: free. Gene Haberlich, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

LOUISIANA

Nov 20 LA, Metairie. Comic Book, Toy & Collectibles Show, Holiday Inn. Exit 228 Causeway, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 25-6, Kevin Frazier, PH: 601-825-1699.

MARYLAND

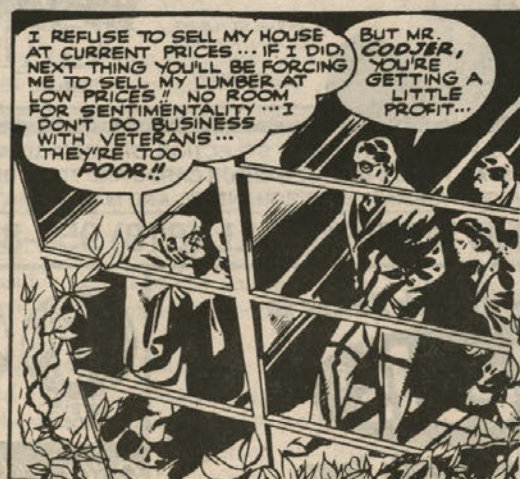
Nov 19-21 MD, Cockeysville. Comic Book, BB Card & Beanie Baby Collector Show, Hunt Valley Mall. Exit 20A off I-83, Shawan Rd., SH: Fri. & Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12noon-5pm, T: 55-8, F: \$115, A: free. Jay's Promotions, 3507 Lord Baltimore Way, Monkton, MD 21111. PH: 410-557-0660.

Nov 21 MD, Pikesville. Comic Book, Toy & Non-Sports Card Show, Hilton. (Exit 20 off of 695), SH: 11am-4pm, T: 30-6, F: \$60, for 1, \$50, ea. add'l, A: \$2. Bob Cook, 504 Heath Ave., Linthicum, MD 21090. PH: 410-789-4581.

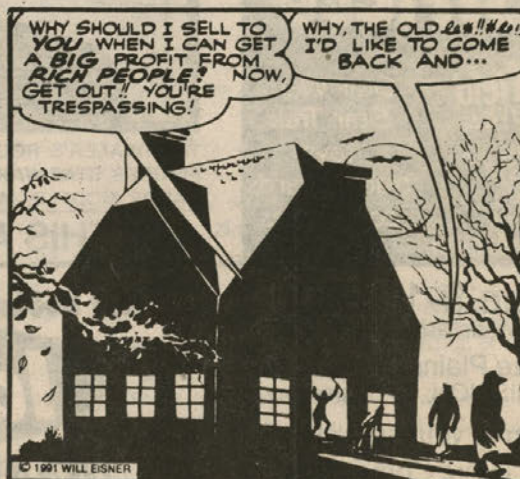
MASSACHUSETTS

Nov 14 MA, South Attleboro. Comic Book, Toys, Non-Sports Card & Collectible Show, K of C Hall. Rt. 123, take Rt. 123 W., SH: 10am-3pm, T: 59, A: \$3. Harry Martin, 936 South St., Wrentham, MA

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Dec 5 MA, Boston. Comic Book & Toy Spectacular, Radisson Hotel. Formerly Howard Johnson 57, 200 Stuart St., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 120-8, F: \$85, A: \$5. Primate Promos., David Cummings, PH: 978-388-5550.

MICHIGAN

Nov 21 MI, Livonia. X-Trava Con Comic Book & Toy Show, Knights Of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Rd. (bet. 7 Mile & 8 Mile Rd.), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 55-8, F: \$35. in advance, \$40. day of show, A: \$2. Motor City Conventions, Michael Goldman, 19785 W. 12 Mile Rd. Ste. 231, Southfield, MI 48076. PH: 248-426-8059.

Nov 28 MI, Roseville. Comic Book & Toy Collectible Show, VFW Post. 10 & one half & Gratiot, SH: 9am-3pm, A: \$3. Classic Productions, PO Box 472, Fraser, MI 48026. Joseph Pellegrino, PH: 810-790-6290 eves., 775-3289 after 12noon or Marilyn, PH: 810-939-4205.

Dec 4 MI, Monroe. Sports Card, Comic Book & Toy Collectibles Show, Jefferson H.S. 5707 Williams Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 25, F: \$20, A: free. PH: 734-289-3531.

Dec 5 MI, Lansing. Sparta Comic Book, Toys & Sports Card Show, Kellogg Center, MSU Campus Big Ten Room A, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 70-8, F: \$40. in advance, \$45. at the door, A: \$2. Motor City Conventions, Michael Goldman, 19785 W. 12 Mile Rd. Ste. 231, Southfield, MI 48076. PH: 248-426-8059.

Dec 5 MI, Saginaw. Comic Book, Sports Card, Memorabilia, NASCAR, Toy & Beanie Babies Show, St. Vincent Home, 925 N. River Rd., btw. State St. & Gratiot Rd., SH: 9:30am-4pm. Rick Doud, PH: 517-754-0249.

MISSISSIPPI

Nov 21 MS, Jackson. Comic Book, Toy & Collectibles Show, Ramada Inn, 400 Greymont Ave., High St., Exit 96 B off I-55, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 26-6, Kevin Frazier, PH: 601-825-1699.

NEBRASKA

Nov 14 NE, Omaha. Monthly Comic Books, Coins, Ballcards, NASCAR & Automobile Collectibles Show, Holiday Inn, Ford Hall, I-80 & 72nd St., T: 100, F: \$30, A: free. Ed Bishop, 2016 E. 19th, Fremont, NE 68025. PH: 402-721-7364.

NEW JERSEY

Nov 14 NJ, Elmwood Park. Comic Books, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, American Legion Post 147, 1 Legion Place (off Market St.), SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 50-6, A: \$1. Gary Sipos, 1 Garden Ct., N. Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 796-9717 day of show.

Nov 21 NJ, Garfield. Comic Books, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Boys Club, 490 Midland Ave., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 70, A: \$1. Gary Sipos, 1 Garden Ct., N. Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 478-7662 day of show.

Nov 28 NJ, Clifton. Comic Books, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, 802 Clifton Ave. (entrance on Colfax Ave.), SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T:

50-8, A: \$1. Gary Sipos, 1 Garden Ct., N. Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 779-9332 day of show.

Dec 4-5 NJ, Ocean Township. Comic Book, Sports Card, Toy & Coll. Show, Seaview Square Mall, Rts. 35 & 66, Pky. Exit 102 S. to 100A N. to Rt. 66 E., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 60-8, A: free. Collectors Showcase, Sandy Gracco, PO Box 189, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. PH: 732-291-1632.

Dec 5 NJ, Garfield. Comic Books, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Boys Club, 490 Midland Ave., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 70, A: \$1. Gary Sipos, 1 Garden Ct., N. Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 478-7662 day of show.

Dec 5 NJ, Wayne. Comic & Collectibles Show, Co. #1 Firemens Convention Ctr. 1 Parish Dr. off 23 N. at Lincoln Park Ext., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 100-6, F: \$20, A: free. Phil DeMario, PO Box 4094, Wayne, NJ 07474. PH: 973-667-2112.

NEW YORK

Nov 12-14 NY, Manhattan. The National Comic Books, Art, Toy & Sci Fi Show, New Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 W. 18th St. (btw. 6 & 7th Ave.), SH: Fri. 1pm-8pm, Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 10am-6pm, T: 115, A: \$12. ea. day, \$25. for 3 day pass. Mike or Chris, 74-05 Metropolitan Ave., Middle Village, NY 11379. PH: 718-326-2713.

Nov 12 NY, Brooklyn. Fri. Comic Book, Baseball Cards, Beanie Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, St. Dominics Church, 20th Ave. at Bayridge Pky. (same as 75th St.), SH: 6pm-10pm, T: 50-9, F: \$40. for 1, \$75. for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Nov 13-14 NY, Yonkers. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Mall at Cross County, 750 Central Ave., SH: 10am-6pm, T: 45-8, F: \$125, A: free. Steve Tepper, 1824 Merrick Rd., Merrick, NY 11566. PH: 718-894-5310 or 716-379-8300.

Nov 14 NY, Brooklyn. Comic Book, Sports Card & Beanie Babies Show, Golden Gate Inn, Knapp St. & Shore Pky., SH: 9am-4pm, T: 35-8, F: \$45, A: free. Mark Dillon, PH: 718-266-1625.

Nov 20 NY, Sayville-LI. Comic Book, Action Figures & Non-Sports Show, Attias Mart Indoor Flea Market, 5750 Sunrise Hwy. & Broadway, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 30, A: free. Paul, PH: 516-289-7398.

Nov 21 NY, Ozone Park. Comic Book, Sports Card, Coin & Beanie Baby Show & AUCTION, Jewish Ctr. 107-01 Crossbay Blvd., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 36, F: \$37.50 for 1, \$65. for 2, A: \$1. Joseph Carvana, 114-32 150 Ave., S. Ozone Park, NY 11420. PH: 718-845-7240 or 848-1795.

Nov 21 NY, Brooklyn. Sun. Comic Book, Baseball Cards, Beanie Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, Temple Hillel of Flatlands, 2164 Ralph Ave. (at Ave L), SH: 10am-5pm, T: 50-8, F: \$40. for 1, \$75. for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Nov 26 NY, Brooklyn. Fri. Comic Book, Baseball Cards, Beanie Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, St. Dominics Church, 20th Ave. at Bayridge Pky. (same as 75th St.), SH: 11am-11pm, T: 50-9, F: \$40. for 1, \$75. for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

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Nov 26-27 NY, Yonkers. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Mall at Cross County, 750 Central Ave., SH: 10am-6pm, T: 45-8, F: \$125, A: free. Steve Tepper, 1824 Merrick Rd., Merrick, NY 11566. PH: 718-894-5310 or 716-379-8300.

Nov 27 NY, New York City. Comic Book, Sports Card & Memorabilia Show, St. Illuminators Cathedral, 221 E. 27th St. (bet. 2nd & 3rd Ave.), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 25-8, F: \$40, A: \$1. Edmond Elmokian, 18 Oakland Ave., West Hempstead, NY 11552. PH: 516-564-9319.

Nov 27 NY, Sayville-LI. Comic Book, Action Figures & Non-Sports Show, Attias Mart Indoor Flea Market, 5750 Sunrise Hwy. & Broadway, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 30, A: free. Paul, PH: 516-289-7398.

Nov 28 NY, Brooklyn. Comic Book, Sports Card & Beanie Babies Show, Golden Gate Inn, Knapp St. & Shore Pky., SH: 9am-4pm, T: 35-8, F: \$45, A: free. Mark Dillon, PH: 718-266-1625.

Dec 4-5 NY, Sayville-LI. Comic Book, Action Figures & Non-Sports Show, Attias Mart Indoor Flea Market, 5750 Sunrise Hwy. & Broadway, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 30, A: free. Paul DeCarlo, PH: 516-289-7398.

Dec 5 NY, Brooklyn. Sun. Comic Book, Baseball Cards, Beanie Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, Temple Hillel of Flatlands, 2164 Ralph Ave. (at Ave L), SH: 10am-5pm, T: 50-8, F: \$40. for 1, \$75. for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Dec 10 NY, Brooklyn. Fri. Comic Book, Baseball Cards, Beanie Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, St. Dominics Church, 20th Ave. at Bayridge Pky. (same as 75th St.), SH: 6pm-10pm, T: 50-9, F: \$40. for 1, \$75. for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

NORTH CAROLINA

Nov 20-21 NC, Greensboro. 14th Annual Antique & Collectible Toy, Doll & Sports Card Show, Coliseum Complex, SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, T: 800, A: \$5, \$1. ages 6-12. Southeastern Collectible Expo, 1819 Peeler Rd., Vale, NC 28168. PH: 704-276-1670.

Dec 4-5 NC, Lenoir. Valley Con #2 Comic Books, Records, Toys & Cards Show, Lenoir Mall, Morganton Blvd., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 1pm-6pm, T: 60, F: \$50, A: free. Mike Dentino, 820 15th Ave. Circle SE, Hickory, NC 28602. PH: 828-328-1029.

OHIO

Nov 27-28 OH, Columbus. Mid Ohio Con, Adam's Mark Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., downtown. R.A.P. Promos., Roger Price, PO Box 3831, Mansfield, OH 44907. PH: 419-526-1427.

Dec 4-5 OH, Columbus. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Veterans Memorial, 300 W. Broad St., T: 150, F: \$85, A: free. Roger Edwards, 873 W. Main St., Westerville, OH 43081. PH: 614-523-2179.

PENNSYLVANIA

Nov 14 PA, Pittsburgh. Three Rivers Comic Con, Holiday Inn-Greentree, 401 Holiday Dr., I-279 to Exit 4 off Mansfield Ave., SH: 10am-

4pm, T: 28-8, F: \$55, A: \$2, 6 & under free. Jeff Harper, 5220 Loma Linda NE, Canton, OH 44714. PH: 330-499-6056.

Dec 3-5 PA, Fort Washington. 69th Philadelphia Comic Book, Sports Card & Sports Memorabilia Show, Expo Center, 1100 Virginia Dr. (PA Tpke. Exit 26), SH: Fri. 5pm-9pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-4pm. EPSCC, Inc., Bob Schmierer, PO Box 3037, Maple Glen, PA 19002. PH: 215-643-0910 or FAX: 215-643-2697.

TENNESSEE

Nov 13 TN, Morristown. Comic Book, Sports Card, Racing & Toy Show, Talley-Ward Recreation, 324 S. James St., SH: 10am-5pm, T: 45, F: \$37.50, A: free. Bill Henderson, 346 Fuller Estate Cir., Morristown, TN 37813. PH: 423-581-8386.

TEXAS

Nov 13-14 TX, Austin. Collectors Expo, Palmer Auditorium, (lower level), South First & Riverside, SH: Sat. 9am-6pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, T: 200, F: \$80, A: \$3. good for 2 days, under 12 free with adult. Sally Wallace, 6702 Lexington Rd., Austin, TX 78757. PH: 512-454-9882.

Nov 20-21 TX, Houston. Comic Books, Toys & Sci-Fi Animation Gaming Cards, SH: 10am-6pm, T: 50. Nostalgia Promotions, PH: 281-748-5154.

VIRGINIA

Nov 13 VA, Tysons Corner-McLean. Monthly Comic Book, Magic, Toy & Trading Card Show, Tysons Corner Westpark Hotel, 8401 Westpark Dr., take Exit 10 (Rt. 7 W.) off I-495 (Washington, DC area), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 90-6, F: \$65. for 1st, \$60. for 2nd, \$55. ea. add'l., A: \$2, under 5 free. Capital Associates, Inc., Jeffrey Rocen, 7952 Ard-en Ct., Vienna, VA 22027. PH: 703-912-1993.

Dec 5 VA, Tysons Corner-McLean. Monthly Comic Book, Magic, Toy & Trading Card Show, Tysons Corner Westpark Hotel, 8401 Westpark Dr., take Exit 10 (Rt. 7 W.) off I-495 (Washington, DC area), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 90-6, F: \$65. for 1st, \$60. for 2nd, \$55. ea. add'l., A: \$2, under 5 free. Capital Associates, Inc., Jeffrey Rocen, 7952 Ard-en Ct., Vienna, VA 22027. PH: 703-912-1993.

WASHINGTON

Nov 13-14 WA, Kirkland. Comic Book, Sports Card & Coll. Show, Totem Lake Mall, Exit 20B E. off I-405, SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 60. Twin Oaks Sports Shows, 1242 State Ave., Ste. I, PMB 214, Marysville, WA 98270. PH: 360-653-5527.

Nov 14 WA, Seattle. Com-Card & Toys Convention #33, Seattle Ctr. Northwestern Room, 101 Republican St., SH: 10am-5pm, T: 85-8, F: \$80, A: \$5. Steve Miner, PO Box 55853, Seattle, WA 98155. PH: 425-774-1781.

Dec 10-12 1999 WA, Kirkland. Comic Book & Sports Card Coll. Show, Totem Lake Mall, Exit 20B E. off I-405, SH: Fri. & Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 45. Twin Oaks Sports Shows, 1242 State Ave. Ste. I, PMB #214, Marysville, WA 98270. PH: 360-653-5527.

SUN NOV 14

Big Apple National Show in New York City. Final day. See Calendar Notes.

Born on this date:
Alberto Giolitti (1923)
Edd Vick (1958)

MON NOV 15

Born on this date:
Heidi D. MacDonald
Stu Schwartzberg
Martin Nodell (1915)
Michael Gallagher (1951)
Mike Gustovich (1953)
George Broderick Jr. (1957)

TUES NOV 16

Born on this date:
Richard Howell
Joe Judt

WED NOV 17

CBG #1359 ships — featuring a look at the career and future projects of John Byrne.

Born on this date:
Sue Flaxman
Vincent Giarrano (1960)
Steve Remen (1969) 30 years ago

THURS NOV 18

Born on this date:
Alan Moore (1952).

FRI NOV 19

Big Apple National Show begins in New York City. See Calendar Notes.

Born on this date:
Rick McCollum (1954) 45 years ago
Steve Lightle (1959)

SAT NOV 20

Off The Wall Street Journal: 50 Years of Funny Business exhibit opens at the International Museum of Cartoon Art in Boca Raton, Fla. See Calendar Notes.

Born on this date:
Chester Gould (1900)
Dave Schreiner (1946)
Rian Hughes (1963)
Guy Davis (1966)
David Gatzmer (1966)
Jill Thompson (1966)
Stephanie Gladden (1969) 30 years ago

Publishers

To see your comics listed here, please supply the exact shipping date for each title as soon as possible, preferably at least one month ahead of time. Send the information to: Maggie Thompson, CBG Calendar, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990. The same goes for any other announcements, additions, and corrections.

CBG Calendar Notes

Shows listed are multiple-day, non-mall-show events with the primary focus on comic books. Further information about these and other shows, as well as creator appearances, can be found each week in the **CBG** features *What, Where, and When* and *Now Appearing*.

• **Big Apple National Show**, Nov. 12-14 at the Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 W. 18th St., New York, NY. Guests include Simon Bisley, Sam Glanzman, Rob Liefeld, John Romita Sr., Jim Steranko, and Jill Thompson. Hours: Friday 1-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-7

p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission: \$12/day; \$20/two days; \$25/three days; children under 10 half price. Info (718) 326-2713.

• **Off The Wall Street Journal: 50 Years of Funny Business** exhibit, Nov. 20 through Feb. 13 at the International Museum of Cartoon Art in Boca Raton, Fla. A chronicle of five decades of the lighter side of business and social history, this exhibit presents editorial comics that have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal's* "Pepper ... and Salt" columns. See museum entry under Continuing This Week for contact info.

Continuing This Week

• **Cartoon Art Museum**, 814 Mission St., San Francisco, CA. Call for updates on current exhibits: (415) CARTOON. **Current exhibit:** *Disney Villains* — original

drawings, sketches, and animation cels of the Disney Studio's most memorable animated villains are on display through Nov. 23. **Wild Brain**, an exhibit of animation cels and artwork from the San Francisco-based firm, runs through Nov. 23. The exhibit includes pieces from the HBO animated series *Spawn*. **Anime, Made in Japan**, featuring animation and three-dimensional objects from *Astro Boy*, *Tenchi Muyo*, *Ranma 1/2*, and *Pokémon*, among others, on display through Jan. 23.

• **International Museum of Cartoon Art**, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton, FL 33432. Call for updates on current exhibits: (561) 391-2200. **Current exhibit:** *50 Years of Peanuts: The Art of Charles M. Schulz*, a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Schulz' world-famous comic strip, featuring his early work, his products, and his life, on display through Jan. 30.

New comics scheduled to ship this week

The following information is taken from publisher and distributor solicitations and updates and is as accurate as possible at press time. Check with your local retailer to find out what day new comics go on the shelves. Comics that are delayed or rescheduled will be tracked in future **CBG** Calendars. **Note:** ♦ indicates a rescheduled comic book that appeared in a previous **CBG** Calendar.

Archie Comic Publications

Archie & Friends #39, \$1.79
Betty & Veronica #144, \$1.79
Pals 'n' Gals Double Digest #46, \$2.99

Caliber

♦ *Cold Boom*, \$4.95 (Aug)
Dark Horse

Dark Horse Presents #148, \$2.95
Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan the Untamed TPB, \$11.95
Gunsmith Cats: Kidnapped #1 (of 10), \$2.95
Hellboy Jr. #2 (of 2), \$2.95
Predator: Xenogenesis #4 (of 4), \$2.95
Spyboy #2, \$2.50
Too Much Coffee Man's Parade of Tirade TPB, \$12.95
Truth TPB, \$17.95

DC Comics

Animaniacs Featuring Pinky and the Brain #56, \$1.99

Aquaman #63, \$1.99
Ball and Chain #3 (of 4), \$2.50
Batman #573, \$1.99
Batman: Dark Victory #2 (of 13), \$2.95
♦ *Batman: Strange Apparitions* TPB, \$12.95 (Nov. 7-13)
Batman: War on Crime, \$9.95
Beast Boy #1 (of 4), \$2.95
Cartoon Network Starring ... #5, \$1.99
Dreaming #44, \$2.50
Flash & Green Lantern: The Brave & the Bold #4 (of 6), \$2.50
Gen13 #47, \$2.50
Giantkiller #6 (of 6), \$2.50
JSA #6, \$2.50
L.A.W. (Living Assault Weapons) #5 (of 6), \$2.50
Legends of the DC Universe #24, \$1.99
Mr. Majestic #5, \$2.50
Proposition Player #2 (of 6), \$2.50
Sleepy Hollow Movie Adaptation, \$7.95
Steampunk: Catechism, \$2.50
Superboy #70, \$1.99
Superman: The Doomsday Wars TPB, \$12.95
Superman: The Man of Steel #96, \$1.99
Titans #11, \$2.50
Vertigo: Winter's Edge III, \$6.95
Drawn & Quarterly
♦ *Berlin* #7, \$2.95 (Aug)

Image Comics

♦ *Adventures of Evil and Malice* #3, \$3.50 (Oct)
Cy-Gor #5, \$2.50
♦ *Hellhole* #3, \$2.50 (Jul. 18-24)
♦ *Neon Cyber* #4, \$2.50 (Oct)
Rising Stars #3, \$2.50
♦ *Spawn* #89, \$1.95 (Aug)
♦ *Spirit of the Tao* #14, \$2.50 (Oct. 31-Nov. 6)
♦ *Witchblade/Darkness Special*, \$3.95 (Oct. 31-Nov. 6)

Marvel Comics

Bishop: The Last X-Man #4, \$1.99
Captain America #25, \$2.99
Fantastic Four #25, \$2.99
Galactus the Devourer #5 (of 6), \$2.50
Heroes Reborn: Doom, \$1.99
Hulk #10, \$1.99
Marvel Selects: Spider-Man #1 (of 12), \$2.75
Peter Parker: Spider-Man #13, \$1.99
Thunderbolts #34, \$1.99
Villainy of Dr. Doom TPB, \$17.95

X-51 #6, \$1.99
X-Man #59, \$1.99
X-Men #96, \$1.99
X-Men: Children of the Atom #3 (of 6), \$2.99

Oni Press

Jingle Belle #1 (of 2), \$2.95

Viz Communications

Animerica Extra Vol. 2 #12, \$4.95
Dragonball Z Part 2 #12 (of 14), \$2.95
Neon Genesis Evangelion Vol. 4 TPB (two eds.), \$15.95

Cancellations

The following items have been announced as canceled or postponed. If a publisher resolicits for any of these items, they will be listed again in the **CBG** Calendar.

ABC: *China & Jazz Vol. 2* #1 (of 3) (Aug)
Double Impact Mercs #1 (of 3) (Aug)
Jazz the Series #1 (two covers) (Jul)
Mars #1 (Aug)
Mecca Magazine #2 (Aug)
Spice #1 (Aug)
Antarctic: *Deadforce* #3 (of 3) (Jul. 4-10)
Fifth Force: Hawk and Animal #3 (Sep)
Archie: *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* #33, \$1.79 (Oct. 31-Nov. 6)
Arrow: *Puss in Boots* #1 (Aug)
Awakening: *Awakening Comics Millennium Bug Fever*, \$2.95 (Oct)
Awesome: *Coven Vol. 2* #5, #6, \$2.99 (Oct, Nov)

Caliber: *Acheron: Fate's Pawn* #1 (of 3) (Sep)
Kilroy Is Here: Pride, Prejudice, and Persecution TPB (Sep)
Dark Horse: *Drakuun: Flames of Empire* (of 6) #25, \$2.95 (Oct. 17-23)
Image: *Blue* #2, #3 (Sep, Oct); #2 rescheduled for January
Zorro: Matanzas #3, \$2.95 (Nov)
Ironcat: *Virtual Bang* (Aug)
Knightstone: *Tekken 2* #2-4 (Jun-Oct)
Tekken: Aftermath, \$2.95 (Nov)
London Night: *Switch B.L.A.Z.E. Manga* #0 (Jul)
Lone Star: *Ace of Diamonds* #0 (Aug)
Marvel: *Spider-Man: The Manga* #32-37 (Mar-May)
X-Men: The Manga #27-32 (Mar-May)
Red Giant: *Condom Man* #1, \$5.95 (Oct)
Red Hills: *Post Mortem* #2 (of 4) (Aug)
Re-Visionary: *Sexploitation: A Cinema Cartoon History* #2 (of 2) (two covers) (Aug)

Shipping notes and updates

• **Confirmed shipping:** We have received confirmation that the following titles have shipped and should be available in stores. This reflects shipping information received through Oct. 29.

Acclaim: *Quantum & Woody* #18, \$2.50 (Oct)
Amaze Ink/Slave Labor: *Wyrd: The Reluctant Warrior* #4 (of 6), \$2.95 (Oct)
Antarctic: *World War II 1946* #4, \$2.50 (Oct)
Anti-Ballistic Pixelations: *Gremlin Trouble* #20, \$2.95 (Oct)
Archie: *Archie Digest* #168, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Jughead #124, \$1.79 (Oct. 24-30)
Veronica #95, \$1.79 (Oct. 24-30)
Blink: *Talisman Special: SCSi Voodoo* #1, \$2.75 (Oct)
Caliber: *Legends of Camelot: The Enchanted Lady*, \$2.95 (Jul)
Ripper Legacy #1 (of 3), \$2.95 (Oct)
Chaos: *Insane Clown Posse: Raze the Desertz of Glass*, \$2.95 (Sep)
Undertaker #8 (two covers), \$2.95 (Oct. 17-23)
Chibi-Pop: *Chibi-Pop Manga Vol. 2* #2, \$3.95 (Sep)
Claypool: *Elvira* #78, \$2.50 (Oct)
CPM: *Frontier Line* #2, \$2.95 (Oct)
Cup o' Tea: *Xeno's Arrow* #5, \$2.50 (Oct)
Dark Horse: *Batman/Tarzan: Claws of the Cat-woman* #2 (of 4), \$2.95 (Oct. 24-30)
Blade of the Immortal: Heart of Darkness (4 of 8) #38, \$2.95 (Oct. 24-30)
Bob Burden's Original Mysterymen #4 (of 4), \$2.95 (Oct. 17-23)
Buffy the Vampire Slayer #14 (two covers), \$2.95 (Oct. 24-30)
Ghost Vol. 2 #13, \$2.95 (Oct. 24-30)
Heart of Empire: Legacy of Luther Arkwright #7 (of 9), \$3.50 (Oct. 10-16)
Horror of Collier County #1 (of 5), \$2.95 (Oct. 24-30)
Out for Blood #2 (of 4), \$2.95 (Oct. 24-30)

Star Wars #11, \$2.50 (Oct. 24-30)
Xena: Warrior Princess #2 (two covers), \$2.95 (Oct. 24-30)
DC: *Action Comics* #760, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Authority #8, \$2.50 (Oct. 24-30)
Ball and Chain #2 (of 4), \$2.50 (Oct. 24-30)
Batman & Superman: World's Finest #9 (of 10), \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Batman Beyond #2, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Body Doubles #3 (of 4), \$2.50 (Oct. 24-30)
Catwoman #75, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Crimson Sourcebook #1, \$2.95 (Oct. 10-16)
Deathblow: By Blows #2 (of 3), \$2.95 (Oct. 24-30)
Detective Comics #739, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Dexter's Laboratory #4, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Faith #2 (of 5), \$2.50 (Oct. 24-30)
Flash #155, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Flinch #7, \$2.50 (Oct. 24-30)
Hellblazer #143, \$2.50 (Sep. 26-Oct. 2)
Hitman #44, \$2.50 (Oct. 24-30)
JLA #36, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
JLA: Primeval, \$5.95 (Oct. 10-16)
L.A.W. (Living Assault Weapons) #4 (of 6), \$2.50 (Oct. 17-23)
Legion of Super-Heroes #122, \$2.50 (Oct. 24-30)
Mr. Majestic #4, \$2.50 (Oct. 24-30)
Proposition Player #1 (of 6), \$2.50 (Oct. 24-30)
Robin #71, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Sandman: The Dream Hunters HC, \$29.95 (Oct. 24-30)
Strange Adventures #2 (of 4), \$2.50 (Oct. 24-30)
Supergirl #39, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Superman, Inc., \$6.95 (Oct. 31-Nov. 6)
Top Ten #4, \$2.95 (Oct. 17-23)
Veils, \$14.95 (Oct. 24-30)
Wonder Woman #151, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Egmont Fleetway: *Judge Dredd Magazine* #59, \$6.95 (Oct)
2000 A.D. #1163, #1164, \$3.25 (Sep, Oct)
Gettosake: *Urban Epic* #1, \$4.95 (Oct)
Heavy Metal: *Heavy Metal Fall 1999 Special*, \$4.95 (Sep. 26-

Oct. 2)
Image: *Adrenalynn* #2, \$2.50 (Sep)
Ascension #20, \$2.50 (Oct. 10-16)
Crow #9, \$2.50 (Oct)
Forever Amber #4 (of 4), \$2.95 (Oct)
Intrigue #2, \$2.95 (two covers) (Sep)
Kabuki Agents: Scarab #2, \$2.95 (Sep)
Lady Pendragon: Dragon Blade #6, \$2.50 (Sep)
More than Mortal: Otherworlds #3, \$2.95 (Sep)
Warlands #2, \$2.50 (Sep)
Wicked Preview Book, \$5 (Nov)
Marvel: *Avengers: Domination Factor* #2.4 (of 4), \$2.50 (Oct. 24-30)
Black Panther #13, \$2.50 (Oct. 10-16)
Deadpool #35, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Gambit #11, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Hulk #9, \$1.99 (Oct. 17-23)
Peter Parker: Spider-Man #12, \$2.99 (Oct. 17-23)
Spawn: The Undead #5, \$2.25 (Oct)
Spider-Man Unlimited #1, \$2.99 (Oct. 31-Nov. 6)
Timely Presents: All-Winners, \$2.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Warlock #4, \$1.99 (Oct. 24-30)
Webspinners: Tales of Spider-Man #12, \$3.50 (Oct. 24-30)
X-51 #5, \$1.99 (Oct. 17-23)
X-Man #58, \$1.99 (Oct. 17-23)
X-Men: Phoenix #1 (of 3), \$2.50 (Oct. 10-16)
X-Men Universe #1, \$4.99 (Oct. 31-Nov. 6)
Mixx: *Sailor Moon Super S Pocket Mixx Vol. 2*, \$9.95 (Jun)
Shanda Fantasy Arts: *SFA Spotlight* #6, \$4.95 (Sep)
Sicilian Dragon: *Anne Rice's Tale of the Body Thief* #2 (of 12), \$2.95 (Oct)
Sounds of Death: *Jungle Rot* #1, \$10 (Nov)
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The “tail” of Jeff Smith

“In the film, I have to communicate the entire idea of *Bone* in a crisp, linear 90 minutes.”

By Maggie Thompson

Decisions are being made — now.

“I turned in an official first draft of the *Bone* screenplay on Sept. 19,” said *Bone* artist and writer Jeff Smith. “I’m very happy with the script as it stands. I think we could make a movie from it. But I know we’ll do at least one more rewrite, if not a couple more, before it goes to storyboards.”

From comic-book series to film

So what decisions are being made? According to Smith, “Nickelodeon is meeting with Paramount to decide when we are going to start production. It could be as early as the next few weeks — or some time next year. Either way is fine with me. The decision is in their hands.”

CBG #1296 announced news of the *Bone* film project, when Nickelodeon President of Film and Television Entertainment Albie Hecht announced Nickelodeon Movies had bought feature-film rights for a high six-figure amount.

Hecht said then, “*Bone* is a comic fantasy adventure in the tradition of *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings*, which will have a tremendous amount of appeal as a feature film to a wide audience. We will strive to produce a film that has a contemporary sense of humor and characters that the audience can relate to and understand.”

The comics series about fantasy creatures who have left their home started in July 1991, and the movie adapts the contents of the first three volumes from Smith’s Cartoon Books: *Out from Boneville* (\$12.95 paperback), *The Great Cow Race* (\$14.95 paperback), and *Eyes of the Storm* (\$16.95 paperback).

Smith explained, “The main thrust of the film will cover the Bone cousins’ adventures up until Gran’ma Ben’s cow race, but we’ve infused parts of *Eyes of the Storm* into the story — mostly adding elements of the dreams and Thorn’s past. Also, The Hooded One is more proactive in the movie.

“The character is still quiet and scary — but much more destructive to the valley from the very beginning, so we can quickly identify our villain. Otherwise, the story should be easily recognizable to the comic-book audience.”

Smith said adapting the comics series’ pacing to movies hadn’t given him a lot of problems, because

both are visual media. “While it’s not panel-by-panel from the comic book, the delivery of a joke is handled pretty much the same way.”

But there was a problem: “The length. With the comic book, I have this projected 10-15-year plan and I can take my time on it. It’s serialized, I get letters as I go, and sometimes the feedback affects my handling of the story: a much more communal way to tell a story.

“In the film, I have to communicate the entire idea of *Bone* in a crisp, linear 90 minutes.

“That was a lot more difficult than I thought it would be. I have to get the audience to understand what’s going on a lot earlier than I did in the comic book.

“People are more patient in comic-book form. I had to put some things out of sequence and cut others.

“But that’s OK. The comic-book version of *Bone* was an improvement over the comic strips I did in college, and I hope this third time through the story will be even better.”



At the 1998 Comic-Con International: San Diego, Caroline Kelly, daughter of *Pogo* creator Walt Kelly, presented Smith with an “I Go Pogo” pin in honor of one of Smith’s influences.



Meanwhile

Back in the world of comics, Smith took a break from *Bone* proper in July after the release of *Bone* #37.

"I needed a vacation! I've put out five or six issues a year for eight years, packaged the graphic novels, and been on the road here and abroad to promote the books the whole time.

"The two Trilogy Tours were very successful but required an enormous amount of resources and effort.

"The action figures were another really fun but exhausting project. On top of that, the *Bone* story itself has become such a giant epic that I needed to step back from it a moment, just to keep the whole thing clear in my mind."

Another reason for the interruption of the epic was that Smith didn't want to be in the midst of a story arc when he had to put the comic book on hold to work on the film.

"I don't want to start *Bone* back up and have to stop. Number 37 was the cliffhanger ending of Act 2, so it was a good place to pause."

Though he now said, "Everybody has been really excited by the finale of Act 2 and loved the ending," early fan reaction caught Smith off-guard.

"At first, no one was talking about the new issue.

"Usually, when a new issue hits the shops, there are people on the net dissecting it that very night. In this case, the issue shipped on Wednesday. On



In 1998, Smith proudly displayed a preview of the *Bone* toys from Resaurus.

Thursday, I wanted to see what the reaction was — and there was *nothing* on the Internet.

"A week went by: still *nothing*! I thought, Oh, my God! What have I done? A few days later in San Diego, I finally heard from everybody and they all really loved it. Letters started rolling in. People are still writing to me about that comic book!

"I guess I just stunned everybody — and scared myself!"

Playing well with others

But a break from *Bone* isn't a break from comics. *Stupid, Stupid Rat-Tails*:

The Adventures of Big Johnson Bone, Frontier Hero is a three-issue mini-series by Smith and Tom Sniegowski, and the third issue (\$2.95) is scheduled to ship in December.

The prequel to the *Bone* series was designed to fill in the break between the suspension and resumption of the main series.

Smith said, "This 'vacation' is the perfect time for me to work on some other comics projects. *Stupid, Stupid Rat-Tails* is turning out to be really, really fun, leaning more toward the Carl Barks side of my sense of humor. And Tom and I are having a really good time. I sometimes can't tell who came up with what jokes."

But even that is not as simple as it may sound. Smith added, "He's putting me through my paces; it's the first time I've worked with another writer.

"I thought because someone *else* was writing, it'd be *easier*. And it did save me a lot of work, obviously, but it's harder than I'd thought it would be."

Why would it be a problem? Because in the past, Smith has solved technical problems ahead of time by doing the layouts as he scripted.

"There are a lot of things that I clear out of the way as I write. Tom will often have two characters in a panel speak more than once: two people, four balloons.

"Then, in the next panel, Tom might have the same two people speaking

with two more balloons each but not in the same order, so it's a blocking problem for me. But I enjoy wrestling with new challenges, and Tom is so great to work with.

"We laugh out loud on the phone — so loud that the rest of the office always knows when I'm talking to him! It's a good experience and I'd do it again."

His second project at the moment is *Rose*, being put together with Charles Vess.

"I've done the outline and talked it over with Charles. He has a really rich understanding of fantasy. We have a three-part outline completed, with each issue planned out as a 48-page full-color squarebound publication. I'm writing and laying it out and letting Charles curse and pull his hair out over art deadlines."

Smith hasn't published much in color (though he put together the *Trilogy Tour II* comic book in 1998), so this new series is experimental in many ways. Work on the preliminary art for *Rose* has begun, but plans are for a release date of next September. "It'll take at least a year to produce 150 fully painted pages."

The conceptual art on these two pages was painted for Smith by Neil Ross (who was similarly involved with *Space Jam* and *Braveheart*).

© 1999 Jeff Smith

Stupid, Stupid Rat-Tails: A view

While *Bone* is on hiatus, fans of the series can meet Boneville's founder, Big Johnson Bone, in *Stupid, Stupid Rat Tails: The Adventures of Big Johnson Bone, Frontier Hero*, a three-issue mini-series by *Bone* creator Jeff Smith and Tom Sniegowski. A prequel to the ongoing series, Smith describes the mini-series as "an intermission."

After facing down a rat creature attack in #1, Big Johnson Bone has another run-in with the feisty animals in #2 and establishes why the rats have no tails in the ongoing series.

In the mini-series' final issue, Big Johnson Bone battles the son of the queen of the rat creatures in a bid to gain his freedom from the valley.

The four pages shown here are from the first issue which shipped Nov. 3. Each issue in the mini-series retails for \$2.95.



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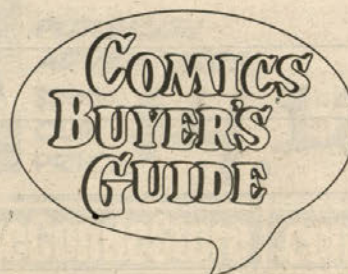
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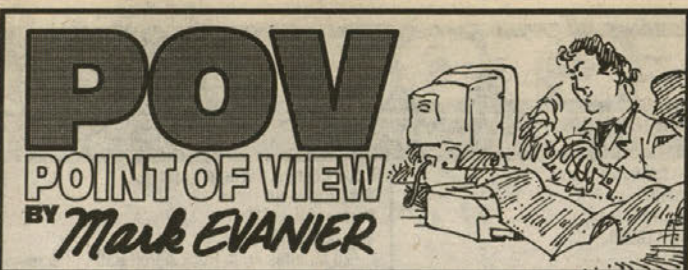
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This is my 264th column, and I can't believe I'm just now getting around to committing *The Speech* to cold, hard print.

The Speech is a combination Pep Talk and Reality Check that I deliver in many variations, all of them the same. While certain of the particulars may differ, the essence of *The Speech* never varies.



[Editor's Note: Send items for this feature to *Now Appearing*, c/o Comics Buyer's Guide, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990 or fax it (again c/o CBG) to (715) 445-4087.]

November 13

Barry Windsor-Smith (*Barry Windsor-Smith: Opus Vol. 1*) at Tower Books, 425 South St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania beginning at 7 p.m.

Claudia Christian (*Babylon 5*) at Metro Entertainment, 6 W. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, California, beginning at 1 p.m.

Theodore Riddle (*Compu-M.E.C.H.*) at Barnes & Noble, 375 Rt. 10 E., Ledgewood, New Jersey, from 2 to 3 p.m.

November 19

Barry Windsor-Smith (*Barry Windsor-Smith: Opus Vol. 1*) at Tower Books, 383 Lafayette St., New York, New York beginning at 7 p.m.

November 20

Neil Gaiman and **Yoshitaka Amano** (*Sandman: The Dream Hunters*) at DreamHaven Books & Comics, 912 W. Lake St., Minneapolis, Minnesota. (612) 823-6161 for times.

Jill Thompson (*Scary Godmother*), **Bill Reinhold** (*Earth X*), **James S. Harris** (writer of *Shades of Blue*), and **Gregory Gruel** (artist of *Shades of Blue*) at Pastimes Sports Cards, Comics, & Games, 1723 Glenview Rd., Glenview, Illinois, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The Speech is most often delivered to an acquaintance who is working in the television and/or movie businesses or seeking to work in those fields, most often as a performer, sometimes as a writer. I would guess that, in the last 10 years, the ratio has been about 70-30, in favor of the performers.

That would include actors as well as folks attempting a career doing stand-up comedy, magic, cartoon voices, singing, dancing, or modeling — and I even gave it once to an aspiring ventriloquist. Fortunately, he didn't make me repeat it for his dummy — or his agent.

The Speech has been given to beginners — those still dreaming of that Big Break — but it is more often directed to someone who has had a few breaks and a career that has mysteriously ceased, perhaps (they fear) forever. About 12 years ago, I delivered an early draft to a comedian who had appeared a half-dozen times on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*. He was depressed because Johnny's bookers had stopped calling.

Later that same week, I performed it again with slight variations for a novice comic who had yet to get on television. He was convinced that he would be set for life and all his problems would cease forever, if only he could get one shot — just one shot — on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*.

The Speech, with a few nouns and examples changed, has also been used to soothe the anxieties of any number of writers and artists in the comic-book business. It can probably apply to any kind of writing or performing or any field wherein, you hope, others will pay you for your creative services.

Here then is the Show Business version of *The Speech*, which almost always includes the following joke ...

A man arrives in a strange city.

He wanders around and eventually finds his way to a local tavern where folks crowd around a roulette wheel to gamble. He pulls some cash from his pocket and joins in.

After a while, a waitress wanders up to him and whispers, "The wheel's crooked."

"Thanks," he says. But he doesn't quit.

A few minutes later, the waitress notices him still losing money at the table. She sidles back up to him and again whispers, "Didn't you hear me? The wheel's crooked!"

"I know," he says as he lays down another bet and promptly loses again.

The waitress is baffled. "Then why are you still playing?" she asks.

The man replies, "It's the only wheel in town."

That joke, to me, perfectly summarizes Show Business — or any field wherein allegedly creative people offer their services in the marketplace, hoping someone will notice. The joke is perfect because it makes the following points ...

1. The system is not fair.
2. It's never going to be fair.
3. You have two choices: Play under the system, as it is, or get out.
4. If it should happen to pay off, it pays off big.

Taking them in that order ...

The system is not fair. Show Business purports to be a meritocracy, which means that everyone gets rewarded according to their abilities. The trouble is that it's a meritocracy wherein, as William Goldman has noted, *Nobody knows anything*.

The key word in that oft-quoted quote is *knows*. A scientist *knows* that combining hydrogen, sulfur, and oxygen will yield sulfuric acid. But a movie producer only *thinks* he *knows* that combining Neil Simon, Jack Lemmon, and Walter Matthau will yield a terrific movie.

Sometimes, it does. See *The Odd Couple*.

Sometimes, it doesn't. See *The Odd Couple II*. Or better still, don't see *The Odd Couple II*. Good heavens.

It's all a matter of educated guesses, hunches, whims, wishful thinking, and, often, someone making the choice that they're least likely to be blamed for if there's a train wreck. This doesn't mean that a person's track record

and skills count for nothing. It just means that the people who do the choosing — who decide who gets what job, who gets to be a movie star, whose screenplay gets filmed — sometimes pick wrong. Sometimes, they aren't even sure what they want, and it turns into a game of *eenie-meenie-minie-mo*.

The other day, a friend of mine who does cartoon voices dropped by — as desperately in need of *The Speech* as anyone I've encountered. At times in the past, this fellow worked two or three times a week, which is a lot for a cartoon voice actor. Lately, he's gone months at a time without a job and he's baffled as to why. After all, he's just as talented as he was in 1994, when he worked constantly. What's happened?

A couple things. First off, the voice biz is lately skewing toward celebrities — meaning people who are known for their on-camera work on TV and in movies. Second, in '94, my friend was a "hot, new discovery" and that gave him a certain heat that he hasn't had since. But mainly, the reason he ain't working is this:

He's very talented but so are thousands of other voiceover actors. The people who decide who works (producers, casting directors, voice directors) all have their favorites — actors who have delivered for them in the past. When I cast, I pick from the local talent pool but, like everyone else, I often go to my own little "stock company."

Not long ago, I was offered a 65-episode series to story-edit and voice-direct. I didn't like the show, so I didn't do it and am presently casting nothing at all. I told my visitor, "If I'd taken it, I'd have hired you 10 times in the last three months."

Hearing all this calmed him down a notch but it could just as easily made things worse. It can be shocking to realize that so much of what determines how and when you get work is *completely outside your control!*

That awareness can be comforting because you realize that you aren't necessarily doing anything wrong. It can also be maddening because you realize it's outside your power to change things. My friend can't cause me (or others who hire him) to accept more jobs, nor can he make himself a "hot, new discovery" again ...

And he certainly can't change the trend to celebrity voices. Oh, he talked about trying to get the

Times to do a story on it ... perhaps call the industry's attention to how some inferior talent is getting hired because of its fame — as if Show Business could be repulsed at such a concept.

Ultimately, though, apart from keeping his talents honed and poised and retaining whatever minimal sanity he has left, there's nothing he can do. And if that doesn't sound fair — well, the biz isn't fair.

And you know what? **It's never going to be fair.** Deciding who's the best actor — or even the right actor for a given part, which is not always the best actor — is an utterly subjective decision ... and always will be.

Once, I spoke at a meeting of an actors' support group. One wanna-be thespian who felt unfairly and consistently bypassed stood up and spoke about making the system "fairer." He proclaimed, "The Screen Actors Guild should establish a rule. For every role, producers should have to audition at least five actors they've never seen before."

Well, that's not likely to ever happen. And even if it did, producers would still hire whomever they wanted, their guesses wouldn't get any better, and some actor would be at a support group saying, "They should have to audition 10 actors for every role ..."

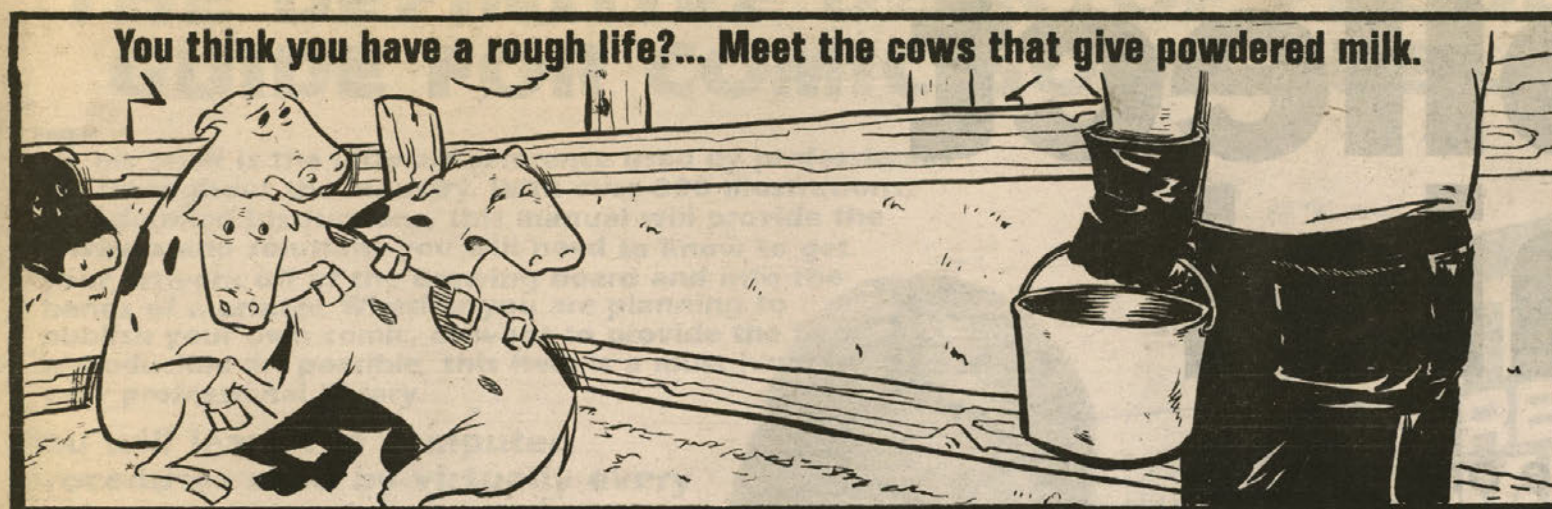
Once you understand that the system is not fair, you need to understand that there's really nothing you can do to change things. This means that **you have two choices: Play under the system, as it is, or get out.**

At this point, I would like to say something about following your dream. I don't think this is always a good idea.

In song and story, you're oft told that, if you want something badly enough, you have only to believe. Even when things look bleakest, you must never, ever doubt for an instant that it can all come true, if only you wish upon a star, never take "no" for an answer, stand your ground, hang in there, keep on fighting, have faith, refuse to give up — and believe in yourself.

I'm sorry. That doesn't always work.

Dreams are wonderful but they need to be tempered with at least a dash of reality. If I decide tomorrow that I want to jump Center for the Lakers, no amount of determination is going to get me



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there. I am never going to perform *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (or even "Mambo Number Five") at the Met. I am never going to ride in the Preakness or star in a movie opposite Meryl Streep or engineer a hostile takeover of Microsoft.

I could dream and pray and try and sweat and persist until I gave myself a hiatal hernia — but none of those things will ever occur.

Some people simply are not as good at certain things as others. Some goals are unattainable. True, we all hear and love the stories about the guy who wouldn't accept defeat. Everyone told him it was hopeless, but he stubbornly refused to abandon his dream and he kept at it and finally, one day, he won the World Series or the Academy Award or the hand of some supermodel in marriage. These are lovely stories and they do happen — once in a while.

But no one points the camera at the millions who dreamed these dreams and never got any closer than waking up damp. The newspaper prints the name of the guy who won the \$35 million in the lottery. They don't mention the 12 million people who entered and lost.

If you've spent years pursuing your dream to no avail, perhaps it's time to see if you have another, more reachable dream. Otherwise, some unpleasant day, you may wake up and realize you've thrown good years after bad; that you could have invested all that time and energy in a Second or Third Choice that was eminently more possible.

Should you decide to tough it out and stay in the game, it will probably be for this reason: **If it should happen to pay off, it pays off big.** I don't mean that only in a monetary sense. Most players, I think, are in search of one or more perks from the following list: creative fulfillment, fame, freedom, glamour, self-expression, influence — sometimes, to fraternize with the opposite sex or even the same one.

The cash can be nice but getting into performing or writing for the money is one of the dumber gambles a body can make. Creative arts are all exasperatingly inconsistent. One week, everyone wants tall blondes; the next week, they

won't see you unless you're a short red-head. Or if you're a writer, this month they all want short stories; next month, it's haiku poems or epic novels.

Remember that comedian I mentioned who stopped getting calls to appear with Johnny Carson? Well, *The Tonight Show* wasn't the only gig that evaporated on him. It was as if all of Show Business had suddenly gotten together and agreed not to hire him.

One year, he did 20 TV appearances and more than 200 club dates and concerts. The following year, it was 1 and 9 — and neither the one nor the nine were particularly prestigious or lucrative. The year after, he went 0 and 6.

One night, he called and said he was packing it in: moving out of L.A., going east to work with his brother in some marketing company. He didn't want to do it — he'd rather have chopped off a limb or two — but he had a wife, a kid, and absolutely no reason to think anything would change. His career was as dead as dead can be.

That was on a Tuesday night. Wednesday morning, his agent called and said that a new TV series wanted to audition him. He almost didn't go but he had to drive by the studio, anyway. So he went and, three days later, he had a regular, co-starring role on a hit show — and he was suddenly deluged with offers for personal appearances. Whenever he wasn't doing the series, he was appearing — for top money — at all those comedy clubs that wouldn't return his call over the previous 24 months.

As a result, over a four-year period, his annual income stats went something like this:

Year 1: \$110,000

Year 2: \$6,000 (much of it, residuals from the previous year's jobs)

Year 3: \$3,000 (likewise)

Year 4: \$700,000

What did he do right in Year 1 and even righter in Year 4 that he wasn't doing in 2 and 3? Answer: Absolutely nothing. (Believe me. We spent a whole evening discussing it and couldn't come up with a reason other than Luck o' the Draw. It was just time for the crooked wheel to pay off.)

Year 5 was a lot like Year 4 and so it

was until his series was cancelled. Since then, it's been back on the roller-coaster. Every so often, he has to call or stop by and hear *The Speech*. I gave it to him just the other day.

Later that afternoon, an animation writer called, and I gave him *The Speech*, and, later, an actress came by, and she got *The Speech*. Before bedtime, I'd done my fourth show of the day for a friend who used to — note the past tense — have steady work drawing comic books. It was about then that I decided it was time to type it out and stick it here.

Oh, sure. You're thinking I'm getting lazy. You're thinking that from now on, whenever anyone needs *The Speech*, I'll

just fax or e-mail them a copy of this column. And, of course, you're absolutely right. I never could get one past you.

But did you ever stop to think there's another reason I'd like you all to have a copy of *The Speech*? Everyone in my line of work needs to hear it once in a while. It would be nice if you were able to pass it on to some soul in dire need of CPR (Career Progress Resuscitation).

You don't have to parrot it verbatim. Put it into your own words, if you like — just learn it.

I may be calling any day.

Mark Evanier gets his mail at PMB 303, 363 S. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036-3124 and on the 'net at me@evanier.com.



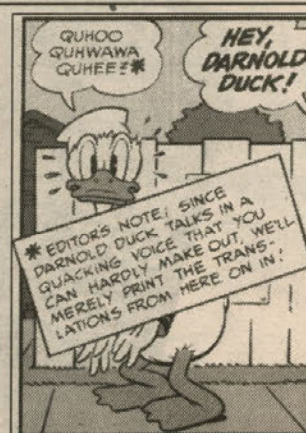
By Maggie Thompson

Prime comics continue to show up in comics shops, if retailers have kept up with things: some of the best of old and new.

• When people were collecting comics in the middle of this century, they *knew* they'd never again get a chance at what they were finding on newsstands. Comics came, comics went, you caught them at the time or forgot about it.

Almost five decades later, comics collectors don't have to locate copies of the comic-book *Mad* by stumbling over a lucky stash in a second-hand store; they can get magnificent reprints of what remain as some of the best comic-book parodies ever produced.

Wouldn't you like to have such a thing today: savvy take-offs on *other* comics you're reading?



Hilarious gags by someone of the perceptions of Harvey Kurtzman?

Well, incredible reprints of that material are still available — and still effective. *Tales Calculated to Drive You Mad* #7 (Fal 99, E.C., \$4.99) reprints #19-21 in a larger size with wonderful color. (And profiles of Wally Wood, Jack Davis, John Severin, and Will Elder.) Makes you wish someone were doing this quality of parody about *today's* comics, though...

• And the next time people gripe that there

aren't great comics on the market today, refer them to Eric Shanower. The writer-artist is turning out an epic deserving of the term: *Age of Bronze* (Jul 99, Special #1; Sep 99 #5, Image, black and white, \$2.95 @). It's been reviewed here before, but there are still many readers who *would* flip for it who haven't yet seen it. Ask for it at your comics shop. It's a clear, personal telling of the story of the Trojan War, and it's a delight for more than students of *The Iliad* (though they'll love it, too). Incredible.



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MARVEL MYSTERY	70 VG	140	DOUBLE LIFE - PRIVATE STRONG	1 VG	75
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THE LAW is a ASS

By Bob Ingersoll



This column's title comes from Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, in which Charles Bumble, a vulgar, common, and ungrammatical man, told that he was liable for the actions of his wife (because English law at the time presumed that a man was responsible for the actions of his wife, responded: "If the law supposes that... the law is a ass — an idiot..." The Law is a bachelor. An ass is a donkey.

The author of this column can be reached at P.O. Box 24314, Lyndhurst, OH 44124.

I believed a man could fly.

I believed an arrow with a bulky boxing glove on it could fly.

I even believed a pair of glasses and a spit curl could — I won't go there.

The point is: I read comics with my disbelief suspended higher than Stephen Hawkings' SAT scores. But I still don't believe "No Man's Land."

For those of you who have been in a cave so don't know about "No Man's Land," are you accepting reservations? "No Man's Land" is a story running in all Batman titles since last year, when Gotham City was hit by a massive earthquake.

Already my disbelief was lower than half-mast.

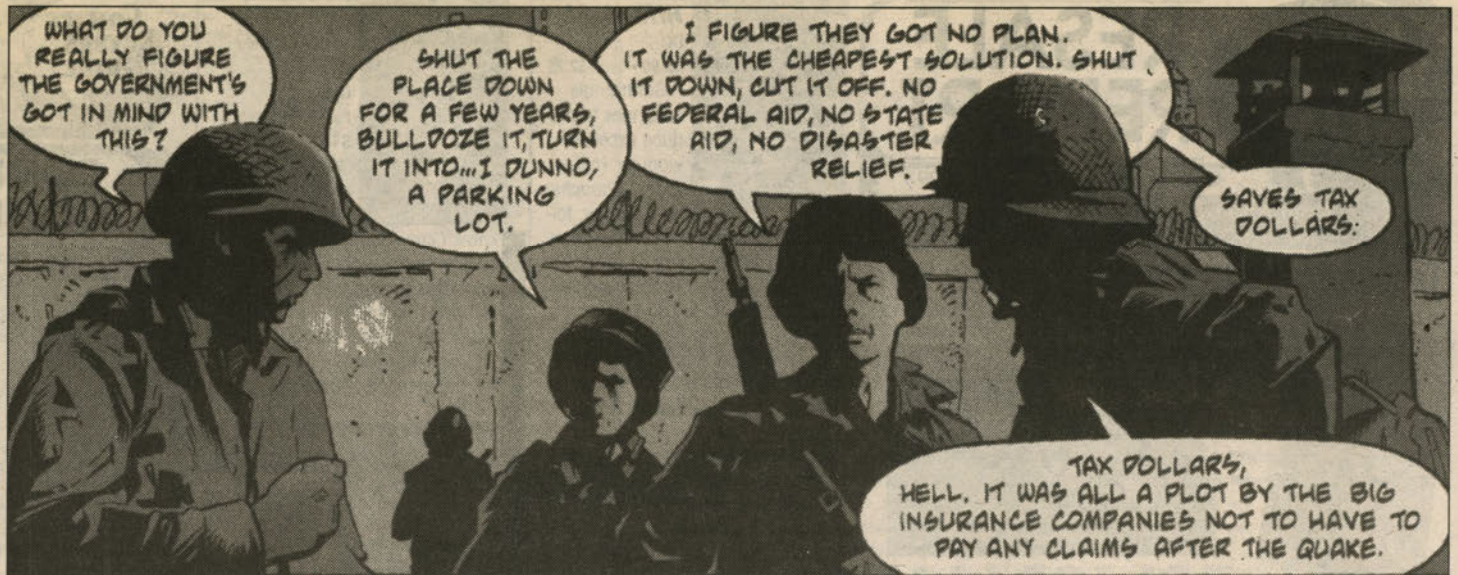
Earthquakes? In Gotham City? This is an area which is, seismically speaking, about as active as tapioca pudding. There is a *reason* you don't read about all those 7.2s along the Eastern seaboard, and it ain't because the Gotham Tourism Board's been suppressing the news like an Amity shark attack.

Anyway, Gotham Bridge was falling down — along with most of the city. Prompting the question: Would the federal government offer federal aid to rebuild?

After all, the Feds rebuilt Homestead, Fla., after it was leveled by a hurricane. FEMA bootstrapped San Francisco, after a temblor with no sense of sportsmanship interrupted the 1989 World Series. The Feds offered aid after the 1994 Northridge earthquake did to LA proper what "the trial of the century" did to its justice system.

But, no, the plot of "No Man's Land" required the exact opposite. In *Azrael* #49, a televangelist named Mr. Scratch argued that Gotham City was a "sink-hole of corruption" not deserving of the trillions of reconstruction dollars, while "children are starving in the streets of our nation" and other, more needy, folks needed the money. So the feds did nothing.

(Wait a second! Mr. Scratch? And they bought his act? Hasn't anyone in Washington read Stephen Vincent Benét?)



Actually, "nothing" would have been preferable. Washington did *worse* than nothing.

Washington cut off Gotham City. Not cut it off from federal aid — cut it off from the rest of the world. In *Batman* #562, the president invoked "some forgotten loophole about national security" to issue an executive order quarantining Gotham. Gotham's people were given 48 hours to leave the city. After that, all the tunnels and bridges that connected the island city to the mainland were destroyed, and Gotham became "a prison for anyone unlucky enough to have chosen or been chosen to remain."

Forty-eight hours? I don't think it would have been physically possible for the 7 million people living in Gotham City to pack their belongings and traverse the handful of bridges and tunnels to leave the city in only two days. The sheer volume of traffic would have clogged those bridges and tunnels like my arteries after a meal at The Beef Barn.

And it's not just that the federal government wouldn't help Gotham; it wouldn't let anyone *else* help Gotham, either. Religious organizations with humanitarian food shipments were stopped short of the city, because the law said, "Nothing goes in, nothing comes out." Helicopters trying to airlift food and supplies were fired upon.

And all so that the government could save less than it spends in a year on toilet seats.

Meanwhile, during the first three months after the quarantine was imposed, Batman (Gotham City's protector — its heart and soul) was nowhere to be seen. Nowhere, because, if we were to believe Alfred's explanation, The Batman was — get this! — sulking.

Saying I had problems with "No Man's Land" 's premise is like saying Napoleon had a little disagreement with those pesky Russians. I had more reservations than Priceline.com.

Let's start with the law. As far back as 1868, the Supreme Court rec-

ognized, in *Crandall vs. Nevada*, that the Privileges and Immunity Clause contains a right to travel freely between the states. The Supreme Court has ruled states may not deny welfare benefits, voting rights, or medical care to people who have lived there for less than a year. Based on this, it's doubtful the government could make stick an order forbidding people from living in the city of their choice.

(Let's not even *think* about the "deprivation of property without due process of law" problems this would entail; I don't have that much space available to me.)

Yes, I know orders like this have gone out for small communities that were condemned after natural disas-

ters. But this is a major city. Even if Congress *could* do this constitutionally, it wouldn't. Gotham is the largest city of whatever state houses Gotham in this week's Hypertimed continuity: one of the biggest cities in the country. Imagine the effect on New York's economy, if New York City were shut down — or on California's economy, if Los Angeles were given an eviction order.

For that matter, imagine the effect on the nation's economy — on the *world's* economy — if New York, LA, Chicago, or any major American city were shut down. The results of federal neglect of this magnitude would be far more injurious to the nation's economy than pumping in the funds necessary to rebuild Gotham. It would be economic (and political) suicide not to rebuild Gotham. Congress can be collectively stupid; it isn't suicidal.

Finally, even if the Constitution allowed quarantining Gotham and Congress were inclined to do so, it *still* wouldn't have happened. Not in the DC universe.

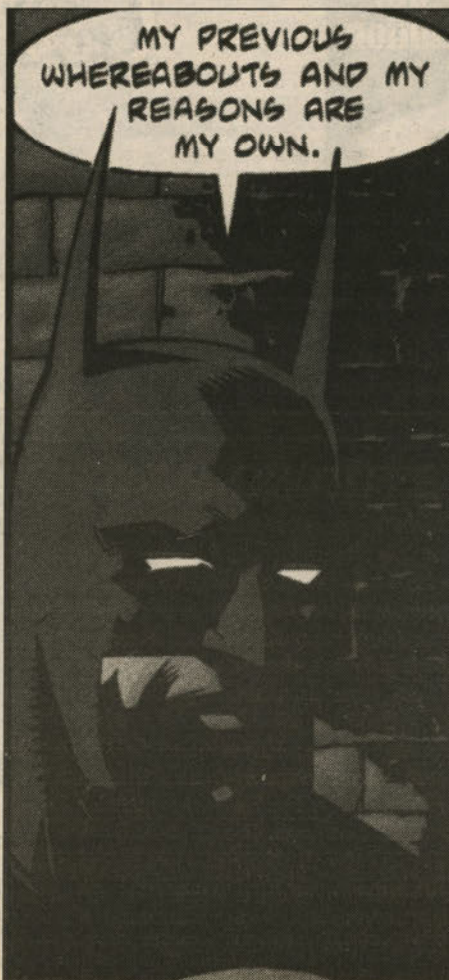
Remember *Adventures of Superman* #522? After Metropolis had been destroyed as thoroughly as Gotham, The Martian Manhunter telepathically linked Superman, Perry White, and Zatanna so they could rebuild the entire city by magic. Are we supposed to believe The JLA decided: "Hell, Gotham is *Batman's* responsibility, let *him* deal with it?"

See, guys, you may have forgotten, but we, the readers, didn't. Why didn't the government simply commission Zatanna to rebuild Gotham by magic?

Then there's this whole shooting down private helicopters air-shipping aid thing. What, you can feed a stranger in Kosovo but Heaven forbid you should try to slip a few slices of Oscar Meyer to your Uncle Sid in Gotham?

Finally there's that whole "sulking" thing ...

No, this whole "No Man's Land" idea is a mishmash; illogical, illegal, unbelievable — and it wouldn't happen, neither. To paraphrase John Donne: In this case, "No Man's" is an iiiieeeeeee land.



COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE

RESALE REPORT

Oct. 24, 1999 — Oct. 30, 1999

Compiled by BRENT FRANKENHOFF
CBG Price Guide Editor

Incredible sales on Incredible Hulk



With CBG's salute to Wolverine's 25th anniversary last week, it's time to take a look at how the popular character's first appearance in *Incredible Hulk* #181 has done over the years.

ComicBase's Peter Bickford said, "Wolverine's first full appearance has been one of the blue-chip comics of the Bronze Age since The X-Men's popularity took off in the 1980s. Showing steady growth, it now goes for about \$400 in Near-Mint."

Often overlooked, since it only features a one-panel cameo, is *Incredible Hulk* #180 in which Wolverine challenged The Jade Giant and the mythical Canadian creature he was fighting, The Wendigo, to a fight. It hasn't shown the increase in price that the first full appearance has, but instead has followed a slower rise. Collectors who are unable to afford #181 may be able to satisfy their craving for a "first" with a copy of #180, currently selling for \$90 in Near-Mint.

HITMAN #1
DC
Apr 96 • Cover \$2.25
Garth Ennis continues to produce excellent work for *Hellblazer*, *Preacher*, and *Hitman*, following a lengthy career begun on British titles including *2000 A.D.* Strangely, when his name got hot in America, the British comics moved not a bit. Now, it seems that the Yanks are also growing accustomed to his style, dropping the novelty-driven prices on his American titles.

Current NM price: \$10

Retail beat
• John Jelley, owner of Pyramid Comics in Sierra Vista, Ariz., reported increased interest in any *Dawn* comics and decreased interest in all *Star Wars*.

DANGER GIRL #1
Image/Cliffhanger
Mar 98 • Cover \$2.95
The magazine-sized version was an oddity, to be sure. The tabloid-sized edition had very limited distribution. Not a fast mover, but novelty value alone keeps this at \$50-\$60.

Current NM price: \$60

THE CROW (CALIBER) #1
Caliber
Feb 89 • Cover \$1.95
When the first movie came out, this all-but-unknown cult classic of pain and despair shot up in price — its low print runs adding greatly to the effect. Now, although *The Crow* has become a minor franchise in movies and television, it doesn't enjoy the popularity it once had.

Current NM price: \$35

KISS MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #1
Marvel
Sep 77 • Cover \$1.50
The theatrical rock band was its height of popularity in the 1970s when this special (and its follow-up, *Marvel Super Special* #6) were made. Always of interest to fans of the band, it got a big boost with the band's recent return to make-up and the new *Kiss: Psycho Circus* series. Once again, the hype has cooled somewhat, and copies of #1 and #6 were sighted at \$30 and \$20 respectively.

Current NM price: \$30

pricing research
is provided by CBG and COMICBASE. Silver Age to present information will be available in the Comic Book Checklist and Price Guide Year 2000 Edition. Order at (800) 258-0929 or online at www.comicsbuyersguide.com.

COMICLINK COMMENTS
BY JOSHUA NATHANSON

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #1
DC • Nov 60
Cover 10¢
Following on the heels of last week's report of a sale of a Good-condition copy at \$220, a Near-Mint copy was listed on ComicLink — the only such copy in three years. Copies of this key Silver Age issue are incredibly rare in this condition.

Sold in NM for: \$8,000

CAPTAIN AMERICA #49
Timely
Cover 10¢
A popular Golden Age title, all issues of this series sell near the established market price in any grade. This issue was released shortly after Timely stopped running war images on its covers, as World War II was winding down. It wouldn't be long before Cap made his final Golden Age appearances. A three-issue revival of the series in 1954 featured Human Torch and Toro stories.

Sold in VG for: \$225

Joshua Nathanson is CEO of ComicLink (www.comiclink.com), an on-line marketplace where a wide selection of condition-verified, investment-quality comic books and related memorabilia are bought and sold.

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1. One Inch (2-1/4" x 1")	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$20.00	\$19.00	\$18.00
2. Two Inches (2-1/4" x 2")	\$31.00	\$30.00	\$29.00	\$28.00	\$26.00
3. Three Inches (2-1/4" x 3")	\$39.00	\$38.00	\$37.00	\$36.00	\$33.00

CLASSIFIED WORD ADS:

Our "Classified" ads are heavily read. Base rates are 40¢ per word with discounts for multiple issues. Please print and punctuate - we are not responsible for error due to long-hand and illegible copy. For more information see classified ad form in the classified section. Credit card customers can place word ads TOLL FREE - Call 1-800-942-0673. (This is for classified word ads only.)

Advertising Deadlines

AD DEADLINE	NO.	ISSUE	AD DEADLINE	NO.	ISSUE
Tues. Nov. 2, 1999	1358	Nov. 26, 1999	Mon. Nov. 22, 1999	1361	Dec. 17, 1999
Tues. Nov. 9, 1999	1359	Dec. 3, 1999	Tues. Nov. 30, 1999	1362	Dec. 24, 1999
Tues. Nov. 16, 1999	1360	Dec. 10, 1999	Tues. Dec. 7, 1999	1363	Dec. 31, 1999

UNIT ADVERTISING:

A. COLLECTORS SHOWCASE

Collectors Showcase Units are 3-1/4" wide x 1-5/8" high and can be bought in multiples. All typesetting is done by Krause Publications and is included in the price.

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts.)

1 Issue	6 Issues	13 Issues	26 Issues	52 Issues
\$31.00	\$30.00	\$29.00	\$28.00	\$26.00

B. COMICS TRADER ADS

"No-frills" advertising with a price to match. Design your own ad - just type your ad clearly on an 8-1/2" w x 8-1/2" h sheet of paper. We will reduce your Trader ad to fit a 1/9 page space (3-1/4" w x 3-1/4" h). Super Traders should be typed on an 8-1/2" w x 8-1/2" h sheet of paper which will be reduced to fit a 5" x 5" space.

Regular Trader

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts. Limit 6 Trader spaces per page per advertiser.)

1 Issue	6 Issues	13 Issues	26 Issues	52 Issues
\$43.00	\$42.00	\$41.00	\$40.00	\$36.00

Super Trader

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts. Limit 2 Super Trader spaces per advertiser per page.)

1 Issue	6 Issues	13 Issues	26 Issues	52 Issues
\$114.00	\$112.00	\$110.00	\$105.00	\$96.00

C. RETAILER DIRECTORY \$3.50 per issue

Leads fans to your cash register! List your store name, address, phone number and 15 words of description. Sold in 26 and 52 week increments. It's targeted more to the comics buff than the yellow pages - and it's more cost effective. If you sell COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE in your store, we will publish your listing in bold face type at no extra charge.



"Ve gonna pump (whap!) you up!"

— Hans and Franz

There are so many things in the world that females have had to lag behind males in achieving. Males had more privileges in voting, in job choice — you name it, and men have generally had the edge.

"People forget that the movie came out with no poster, but only lobby cards."

— Mark Hamill



"The recent Luke figures have rippling muscles and a sculpted torso, totally different from Luke Skywalker's first toy incarnation."

— Peter David

But there's one thing that modern young ladies have had the edge on for quite some time, and that only in recent years are young guys starting to catch up. And that, kids, is body dimorphism.

Striving for an ideal of the human body is nothing new, of course. One need look no further than Greek statues to see ideally sculpted, muscled, and fairly ripped men in various poses of sleek flawlessness. Women who were not only supposed to look like goddesses, but genuinely were goddesses. Perfection was presented in three glorious dimensions. However, whether Greeks of the time actually thought they were supposed to look like those statues, and did everything they could — reasonable and unreasonable — to achieve that look for themselves, I really couldn't say. Perhaps there are expert historians who could provide an answer, but that's a bit outside of my field.

Of more recent vintage, however, we hand our daughters Barbie dolls, and those wasp-waisted, well-bosomed plastic individuals provide the idealized body type for young girls. And if the doll does not drive the message home sufficiently, then certainly a world filled with slim models draped in the latest revealing fashions certainly helps to let young ladies know where they stand, or at least where they should stand.

Boys, however, haven't had it quite shoved so thoroughly into their faces — at least, not until recently. No one is saying that trying to care for one's body or endeavoring to look good is a bad thing — certainly not at a time when the United States leads the world in obesity. But, on the other hand, let's take a look in our own little industry at the changes in the way that the human body has been represented.

There are certain givens, of

course. Comic-book heroines are hugely busted, equipped with breasts that would probably give the ladies a black eye while they're running. Comic-book heroes wear outfits that are exceptionally tight in the area of the crotch, so much so that one realizes that there can't really be anything there, since no bulge is apparent. (This would, when you think about it, explain the hostility that prompts them to go out and beat up on bad guys. Perhaps they're feeling inadequacy in other aspects of their lives.)

But that's not what I'm focusing on. Instead consider the heroes and heroines of the Golden Age of comics.

A pretty slim bunch.

Wonder Woman, considering she was an Amazon princess, was thin, her bustline nothing especially daunting (although understandable, when one recalls that Amazons whacked off one breast, so as not to have any impediment to their archery.) The heroes, by the same token, were slender. They weren't 90-pound weaklings, but they weren't exactly Hercules, either. Even artists such as Jack Kirby, who were later known for their impossibly muscled characters, were producing heroes who were thin and wiry. Look at early Sub-Mariner stories; Bill Everett drew a skinny little guy.

Geez, look at early Spider-Man, for pity's sake. Thanks to Steve Ditko's pencils (and, according to Stan Lee, his insistence that a Kirbyesque muscle man wasn't what he was going for), Spider-Man was the Lt. Columbo of the super-hero set. People took one look at this skinny guy and thought, "No problem," right before they got their butts kicked.

No less an authority on male physique than Princess Python (who, let's face it, had "slut" written all over her) commented that she couldn't believe how someone as small and unassuming as Spider-Man could possibly be such a physical threat, even as he juggled members of The Circus of Crime as if they were Styrofoam packing chips. It was part of what made early Spidey so appealing to geekish readers (no offense intended) who felt that their own less-than-manly physique truly hid the fighting heart of a lion — or, at the very least, an irradiated spider.

When was the last time someone took one look at Spider-Man and sneered that he didn't look like much of a threat?

Some heroes even had loose shirts or slacks instead of le-



The first Luke Skywalker action figures had blond hair and smooth chests (left), while the newer figures, including a Luke in Stormtrooper armor (right) have light brown hair, a cleft in the chin, and a build that is more buff.

tards. The early FF uniforms were practically baggy. Heroes of the Golden Age, and even the early Silver, simply did not impress with their physicality. Instead they impressed us with their deeds, their heroics, and their pureness of heart and sincerity of purpose.

Now look at what we have. Heroes are almost uniformly well built, incredibly and hugely and impossibly muscled. Slim or physically unimpressive protagonists seem to be solely the province of the Vertigo line.

It's a phenomenon hardly limited to comic books. Surveys of action figures were done recently, noting the manner in which their muscles have grown exponentially over the past 20 years. One figure held up as an example was the Luke Skywalker action figure. When it was first produced 20 years ago, the body was fairly slim, normal-looking — not unlike the fairly slim, normal-looking Mark Hamill who played him. The action figure disdained any sort of huge, heroic proportions. This was not surprising, considering even Hamill didn't realize — during auditions with the initial scripts — that his character was the central hero.

"I couldn't get over the fact that the protagonist wasn't in the usual mode of the action hero," said Hamill in a recent phone interview. "I figured Harrison was the lead. That he was Flash Gordon and I was the sidekick. Who knew?"

As for the action figure of the unusual hero, "The face was kind of generic. It didn't look anything like me. I remember visiting the toy factory when we were over in Hong Kong, and I was surprised

how CIA-like it was. You had to sign confidentiality, non-disclosure agreements. We couldn't talk about what they'd seen. I asked them why the [doll's] hair was yellow, since I always thought my hair was light brown. It was mostly based on the fact that, since Harrison's hair was brown [on the Han Solo figure], they wanted a contrast and they didn't have a lot of choices. The color palette was really limited. It's probably far more sophisticated now. I don't think there was any attempt in those days to make it look like me. Now tastes have become so much more sophisticated. I've seen the recent 12" figures, and they've even put the cleft in the chin."

The other things the recent Luke figures have are rippling muscles and a sculpted torso, totally different from Luke Skywalker's first toy incarnation. Hamill pointed out that the new Luke Skywalker toys resemble "the redesigned figure with the body-builder torso" depicted on the early Hildebrandt poster: a poster which was not, incidentally, in the theaters initially. "People forget that the movie came out with no poster, but only lobby cards," said Hamill. "At Grauman's Chinese the day it opened, they put out lobby cards, because Lucasfilm was never happy with what Fox came up with. There was great dissension over whether to promote it as science fiction or Little Rascals in outer space."

More thoughts on the muscling of Luke Skywalker and the lessons to be learned from pumped-up heroes next issue.

Peter David, writer of stuff, can be written to at To Be Continued Inc., P.O. Box 239, Bayport, NY 11705.

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